

The cover art depicts two young characters, Ellie and Riley, in a desolate, post-apocalyptic urban environment. Ellie, on the left, is wearing a dark jacket and a backpack, holding a handgun. Riley, on the right, is wearing a red jacket and has blood splatters on his face and clothing. In the background, a large, rusted metal structure, possibly a tank turret, is visible. Graffiti on a wall to the left reads "THE FIREFLIES WILL SAVE US". The title "THE LAST OF US" is written in large, white, distressed letters in the upper right, with "AMERICAN DREAMS" in smaller, yellow, distressed letters below it. The names of the authors, Neil Druckmann, Faith Erin Hicks, and Rachelle Rosenberg, are listed in the bottom right corner.


THE LAST OF US™

AMERICAN DREAMS

NEIL
DRUCKMANN

FAITH ERIN
HICKS

RACHELLE
ROSENBERG



THE LAST OF US™



Illustration by **FAITH ERIN HICKS** with **CHRISTINA STRAIN**

THE LAST OF US™ AMERICAN DREAMS

WRITTEN BY
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AND **FAITH ERIN HICKS**

ART BY
FAITH ERIN HICKS

COLORS BY
RACHELLE ROSENBERG

LETTERS BY
CLEM ROBINS

COVER AND
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THE LAST OF US™: AMERICAN DREAMS

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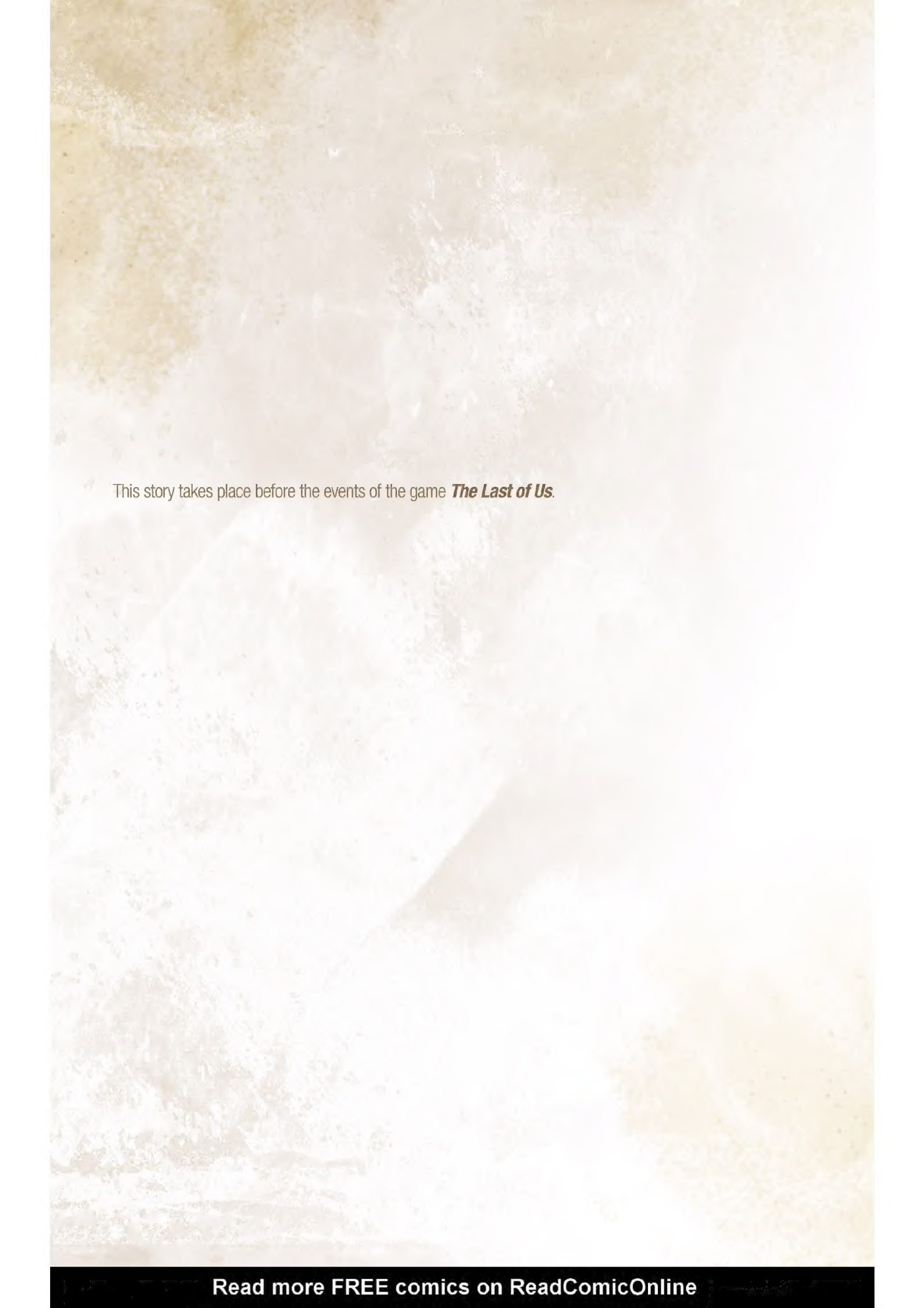
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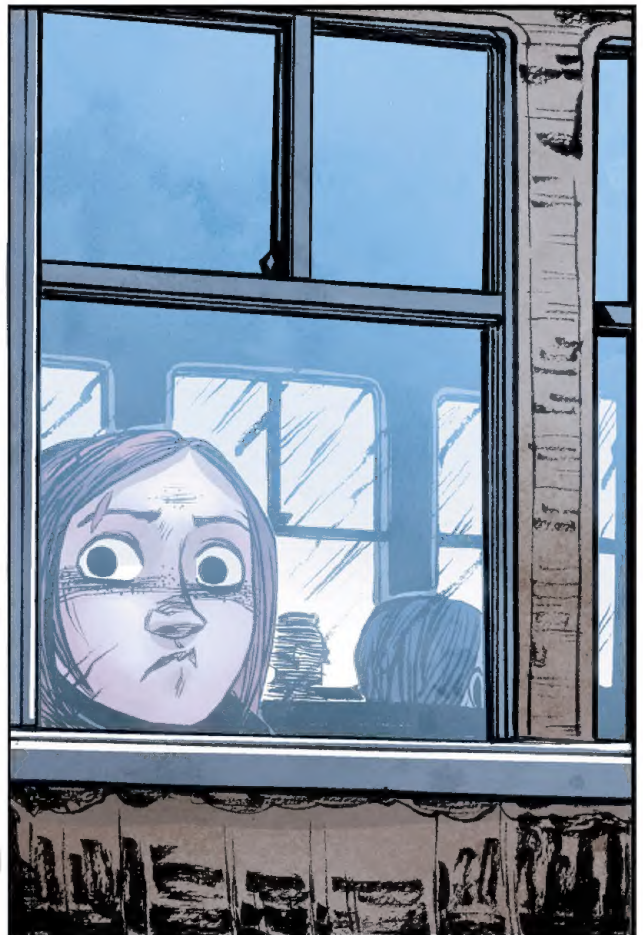
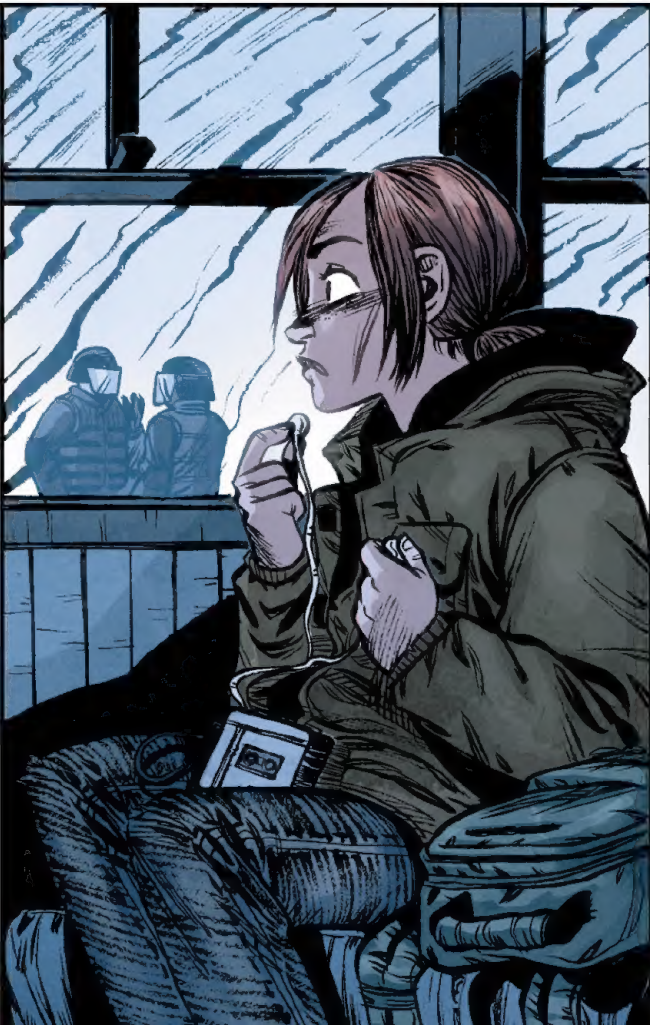
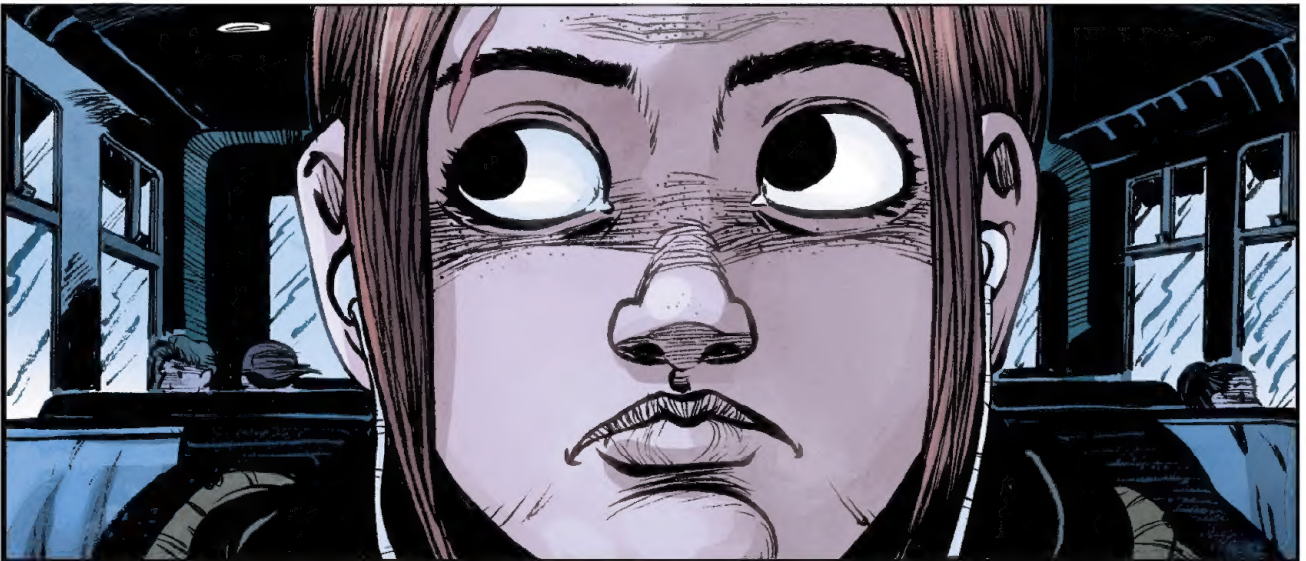
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CHAPTER ONE

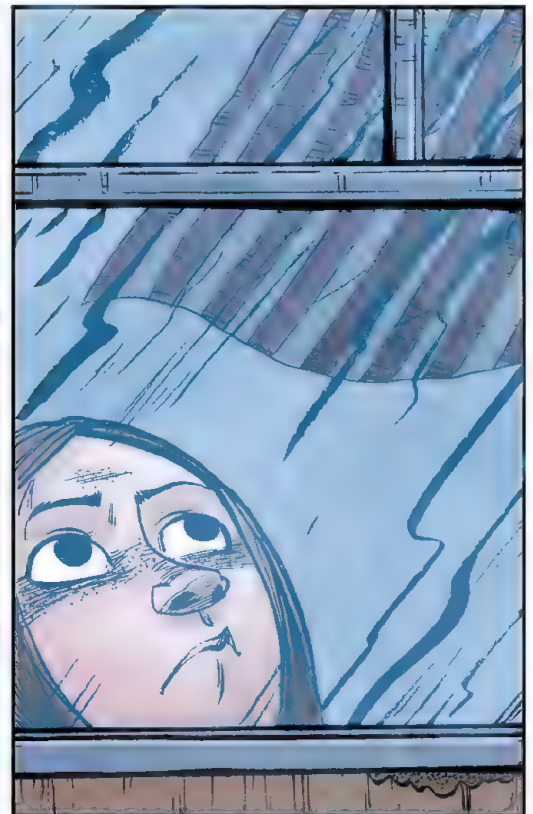
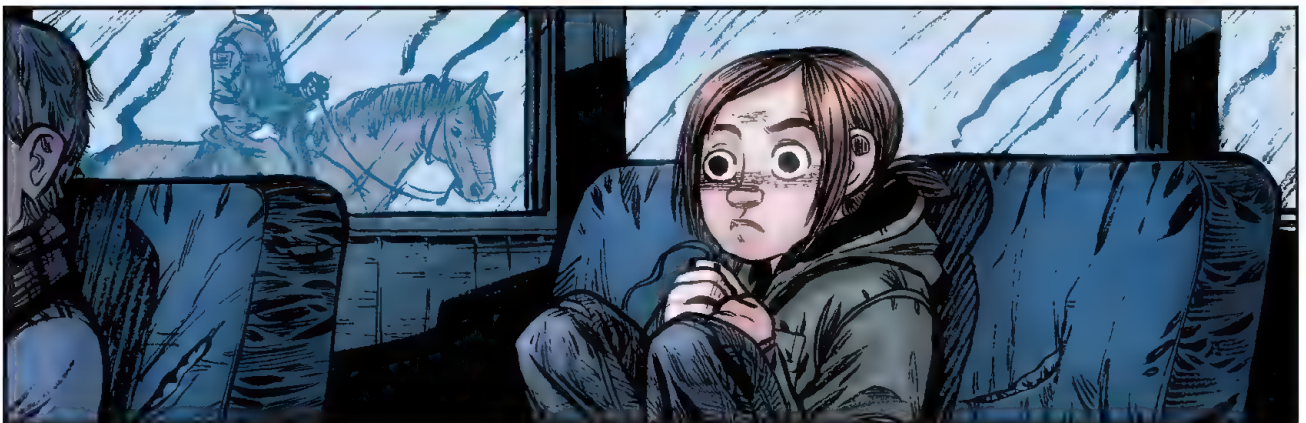
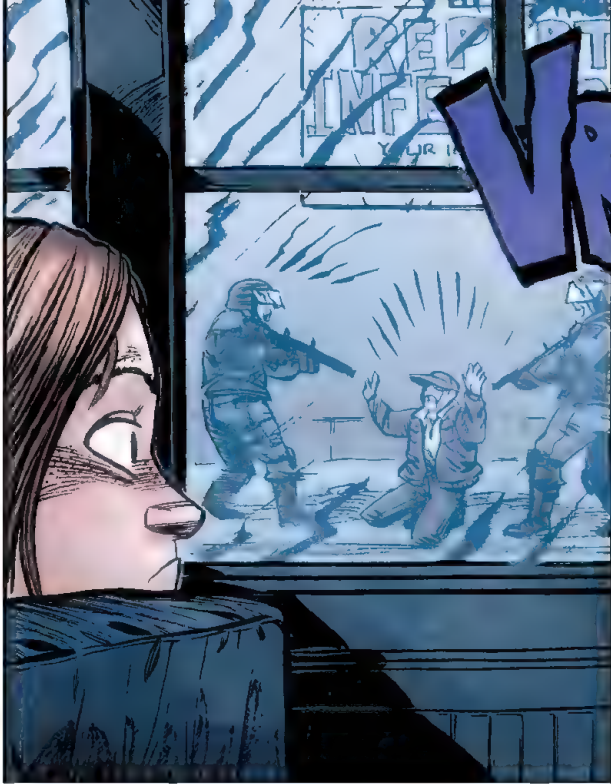




This story takes place before the events of the game ***The Last of Us***.



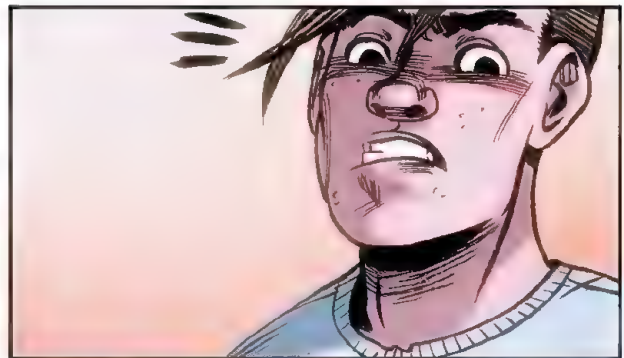


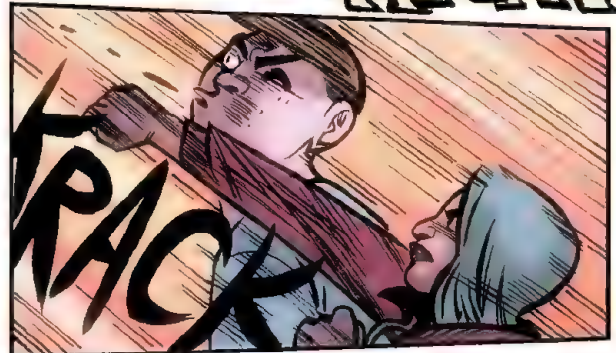
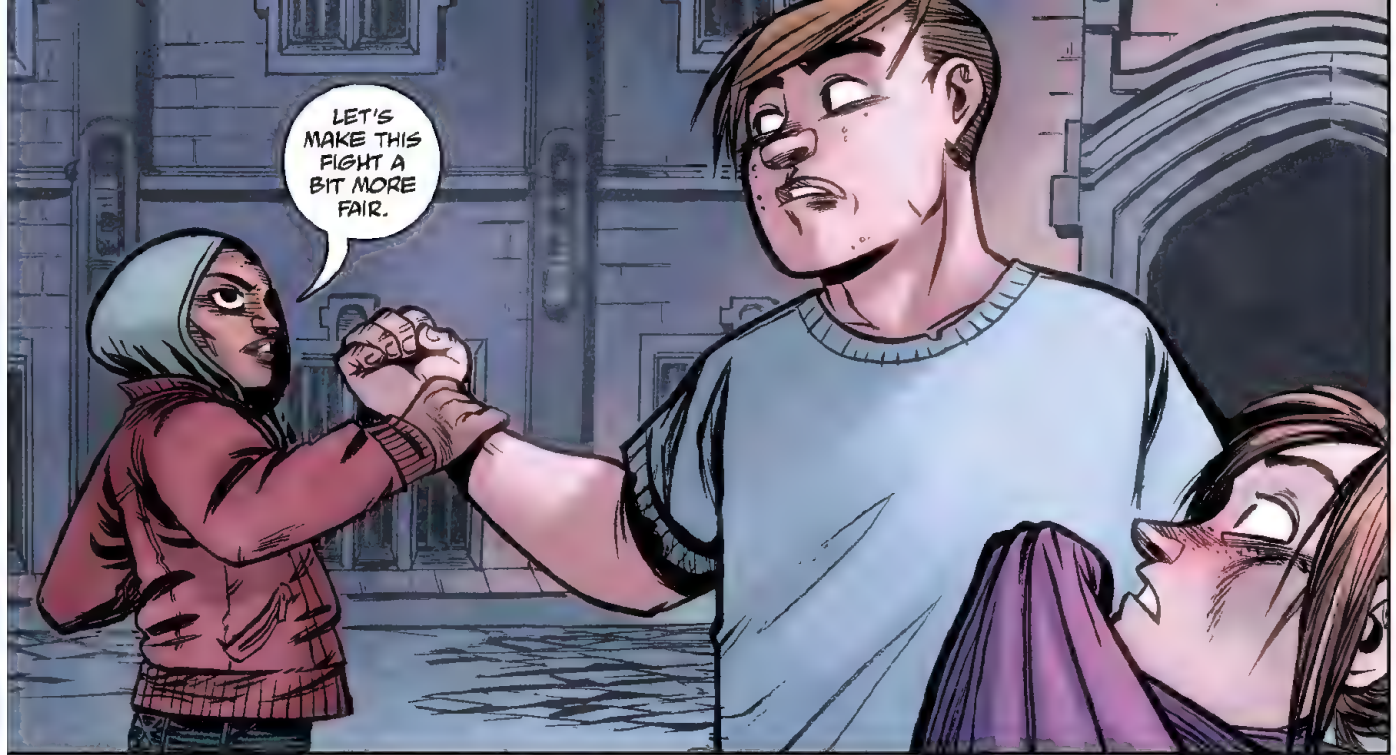


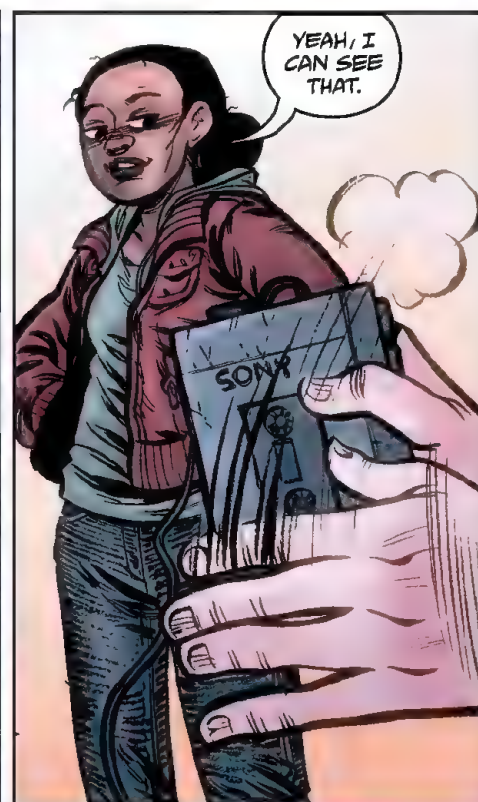
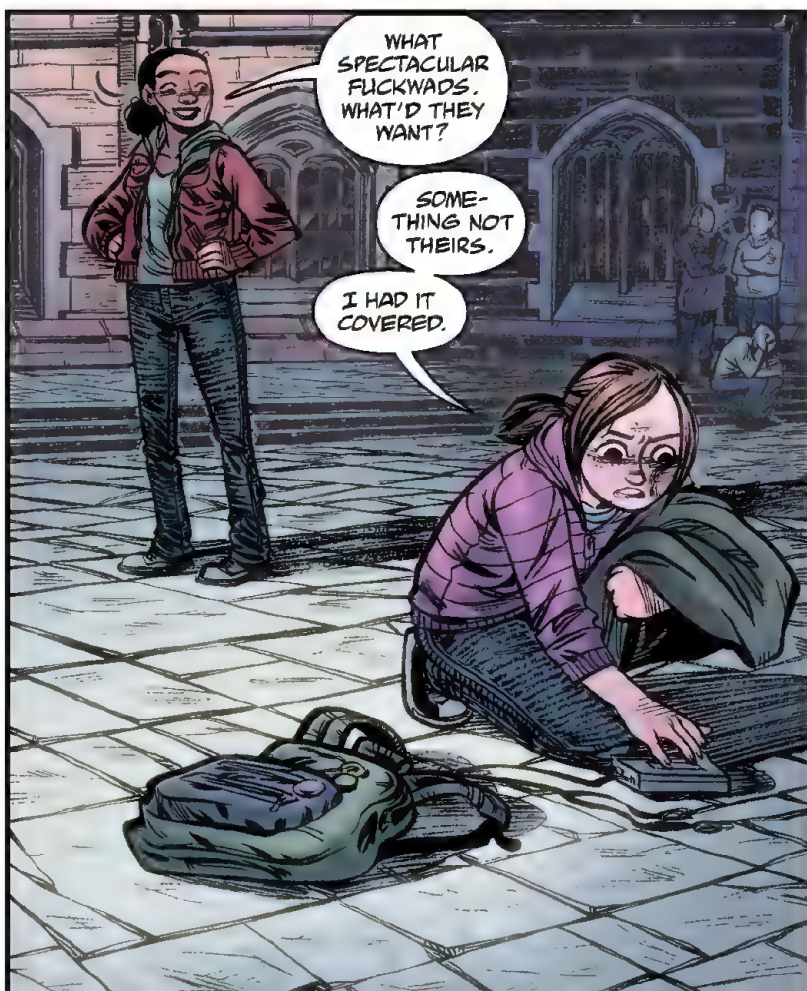
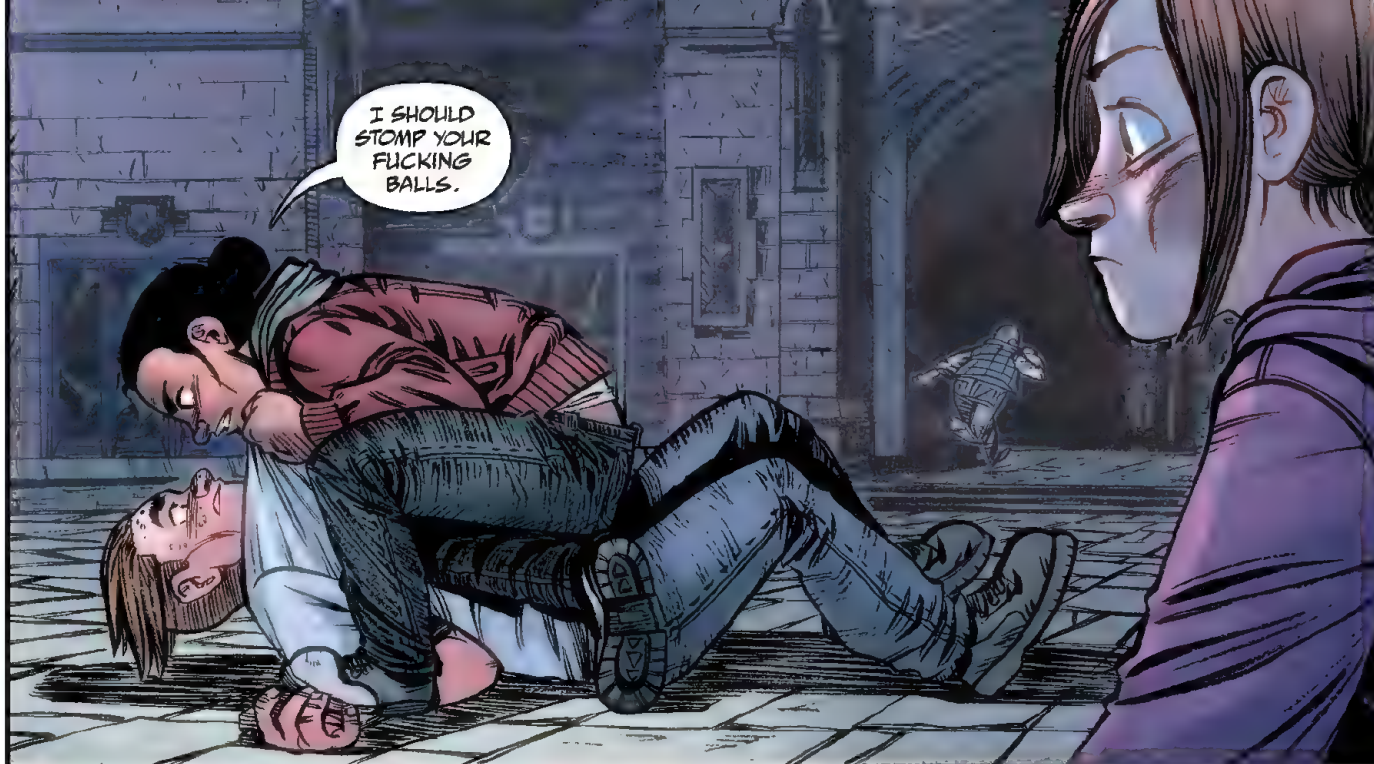


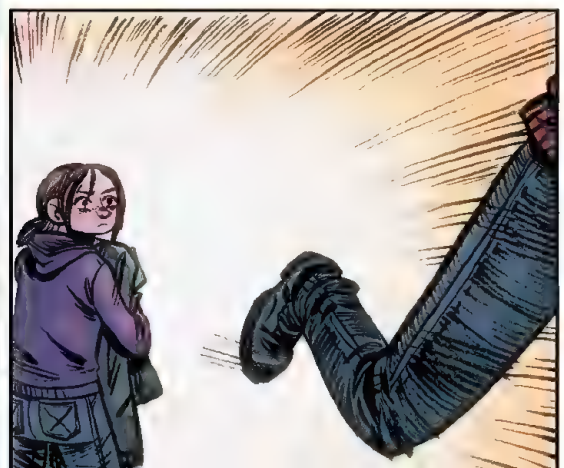
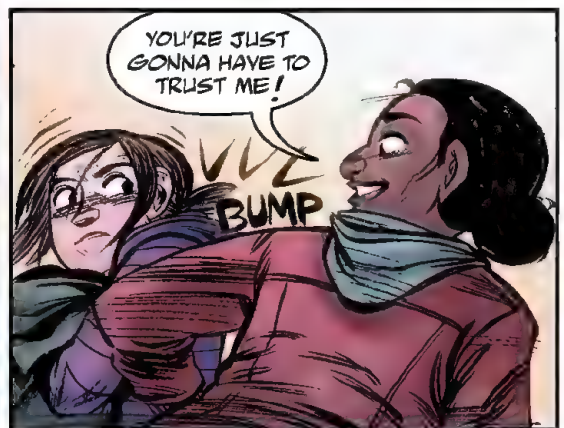
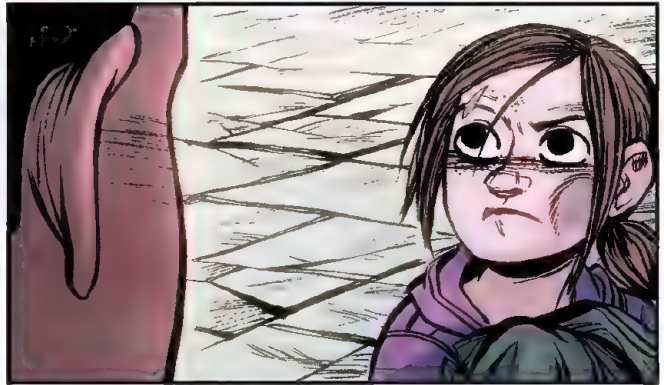


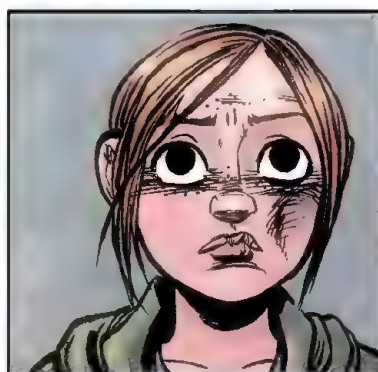
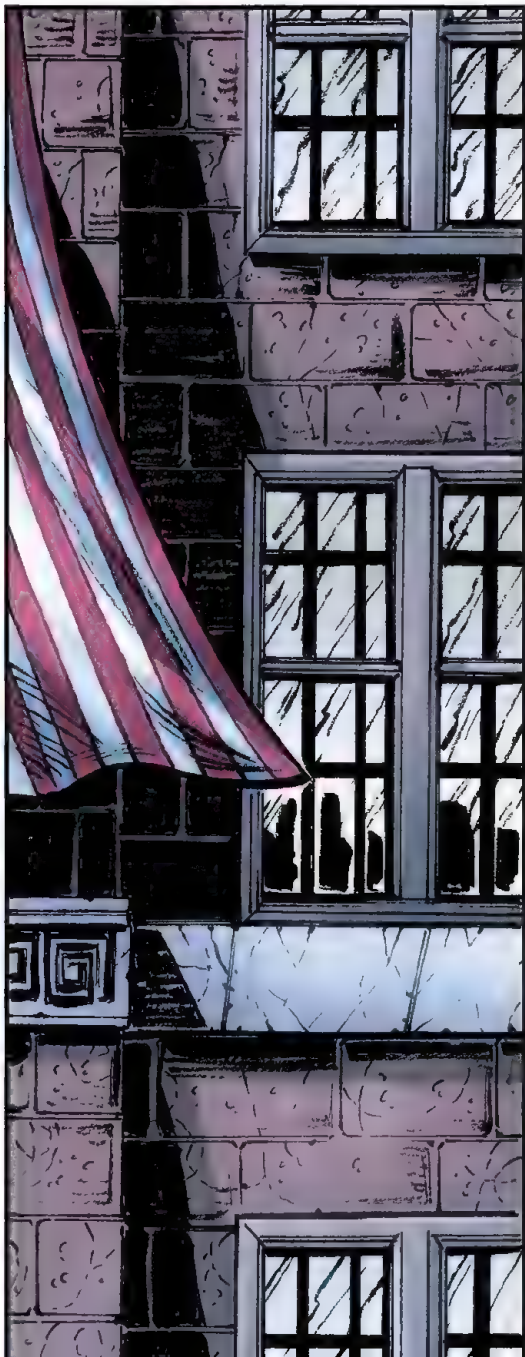
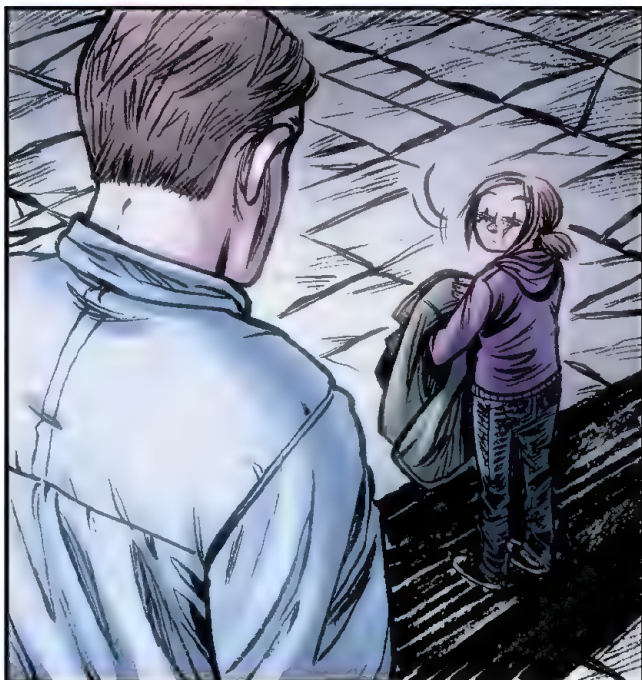








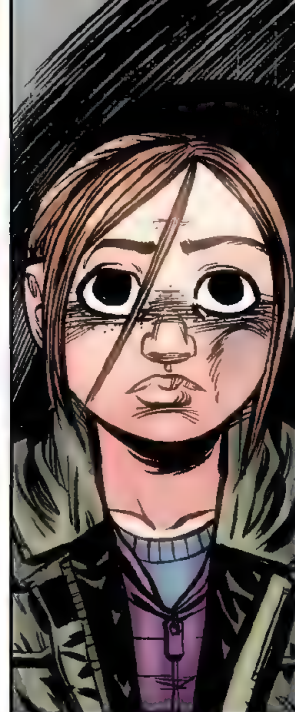






...AND MORE FIGHTING.

YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?



DO YOU KNOW WHAT STANDS BETWEEN THE HORDES OF INFECTED AND ALL THE STRAGGLERS LIVING IN THIS CITY?



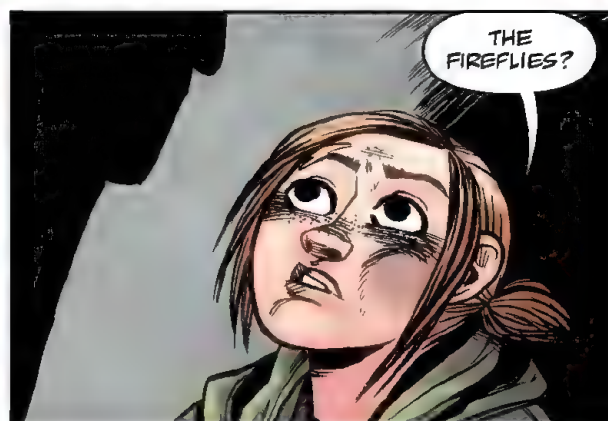
A GIANT CONCRETE WALL?

ME! AND EVERY OTHER SOLDIER WHO PUTS HIS LIFE ON THE LINE FOR YOU PEOPLE.

WE KEEP THE ORDER THAT SAVES LIVES! EVERY GODDAMN HUMAN BEING IN THE WORLD WOULD BE INFECTED IF IT WASN'T FOR US!



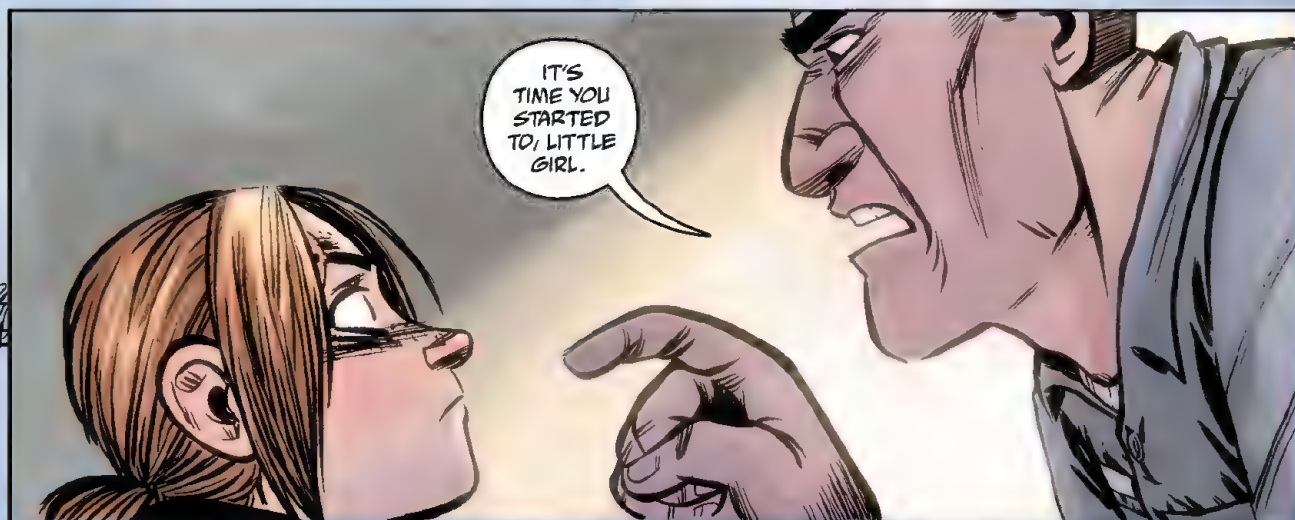
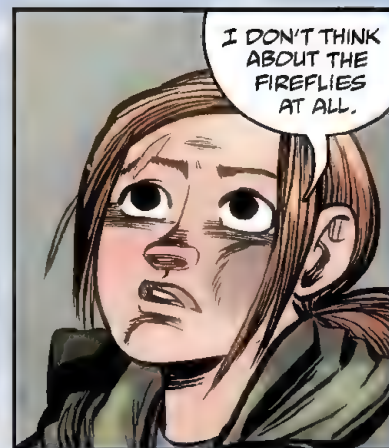
WE'RE THE ONES WHO PROTECT YOU PEOPLE FROM **EVERYTHING**, INCLUDING THAT FUCKING RENEGADE GROUP.

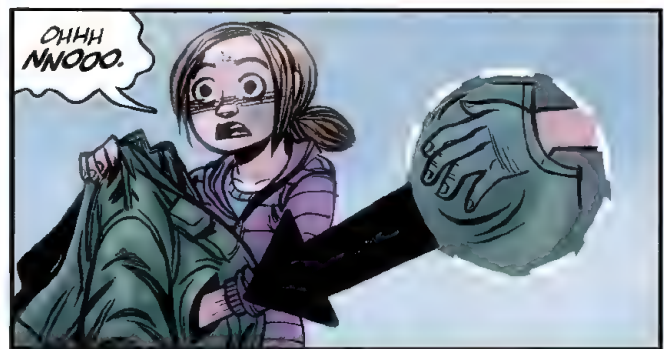
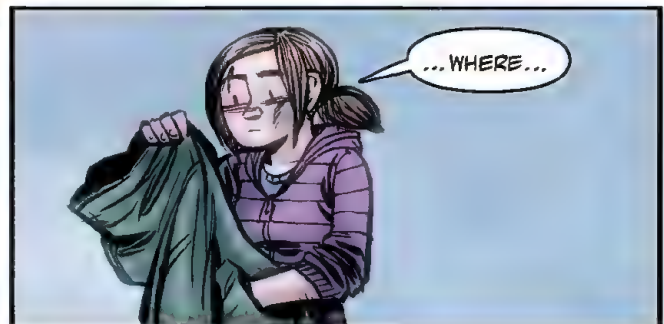


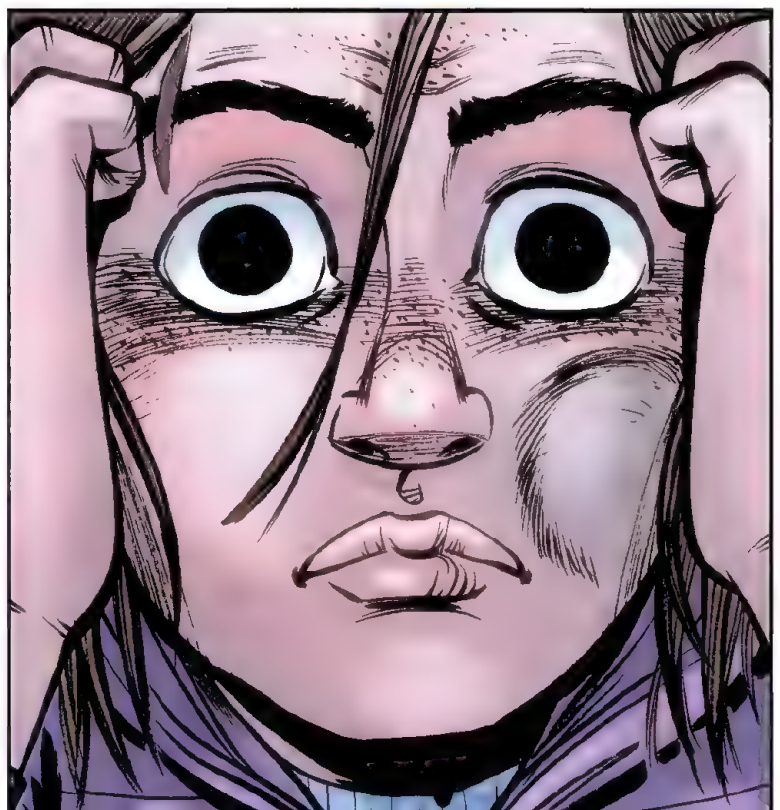
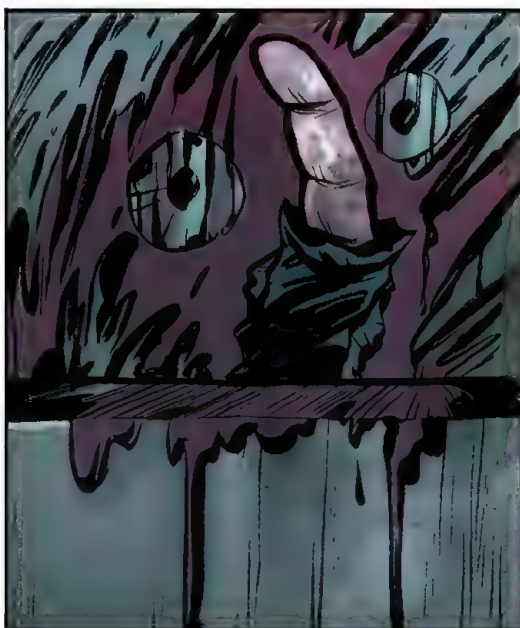
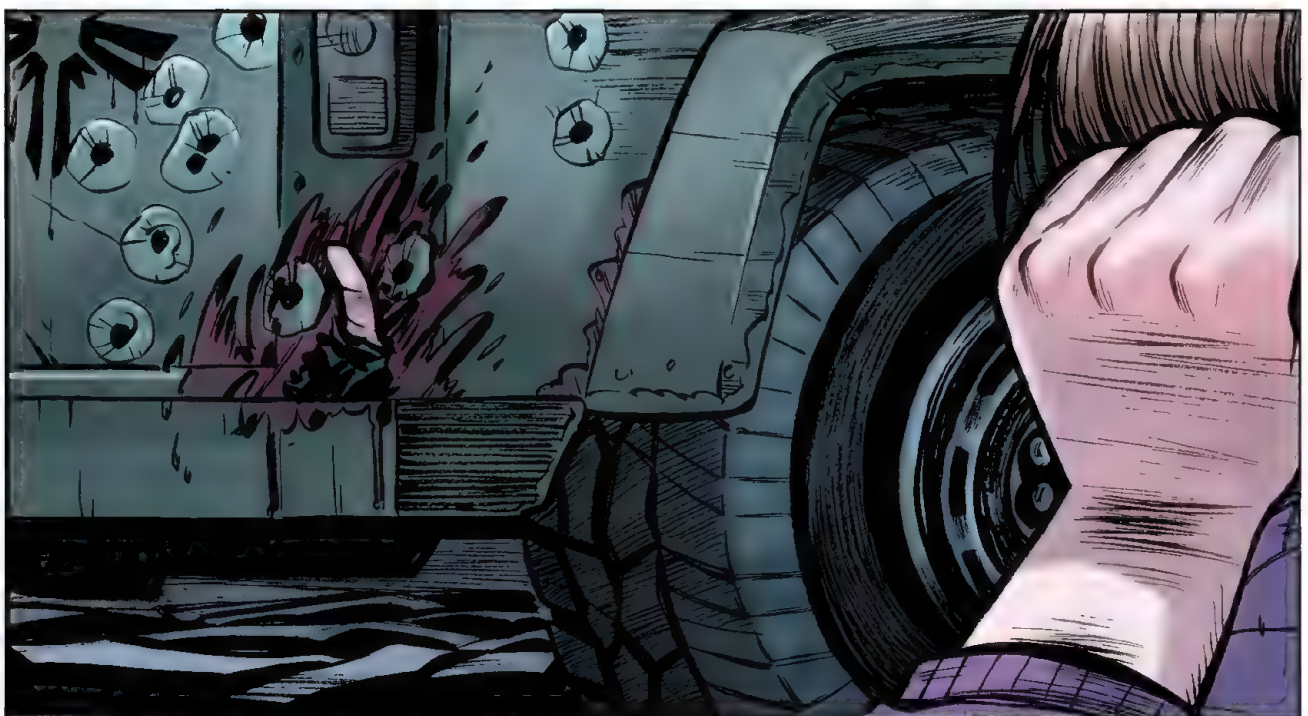
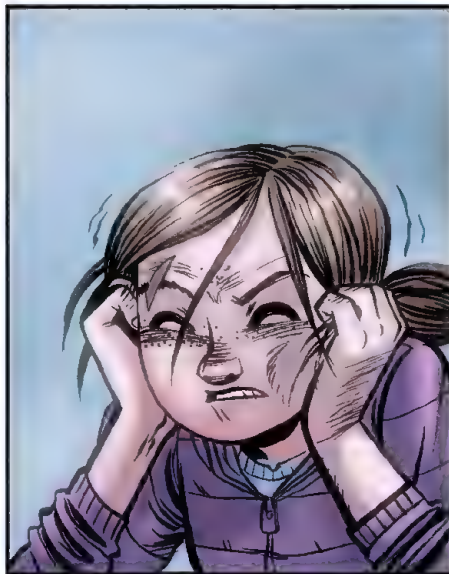
THE FIREFLIES?



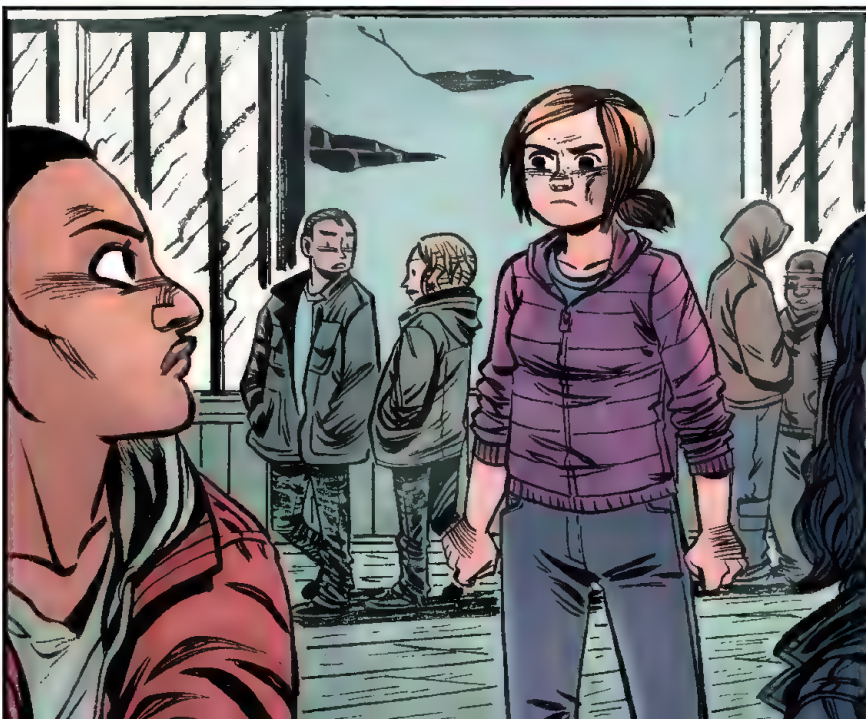
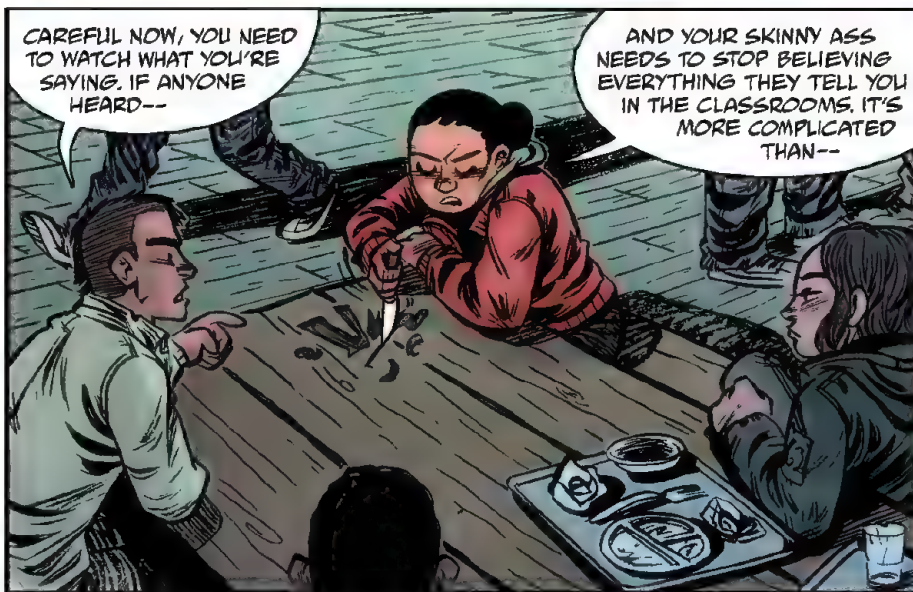
YES, THE FIREFLIES. WHOLE DAMN CITY ACTS LIKE THEY'RE THE SECOND COMING.

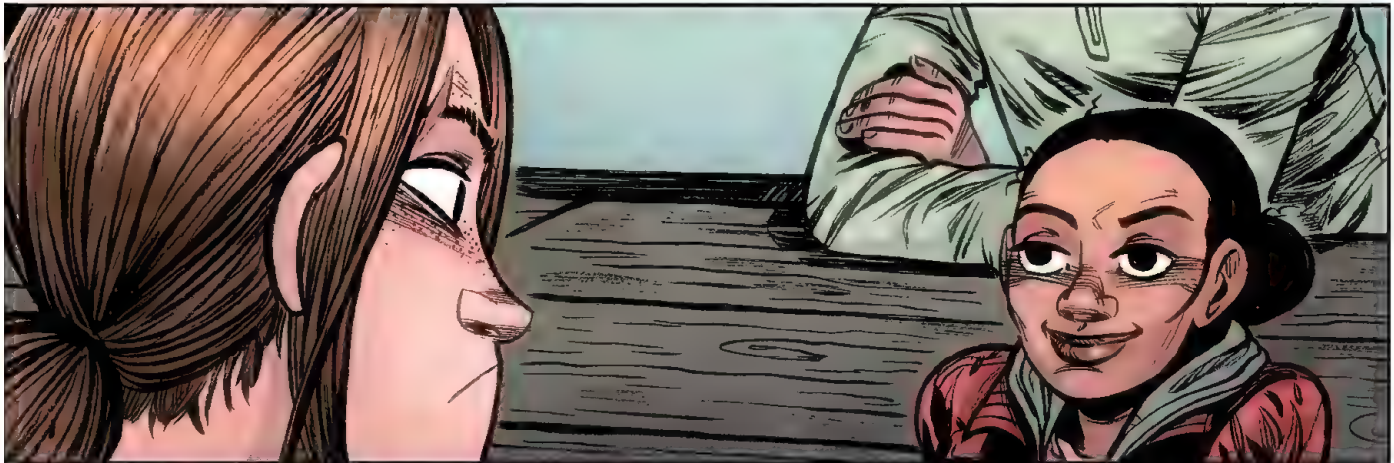




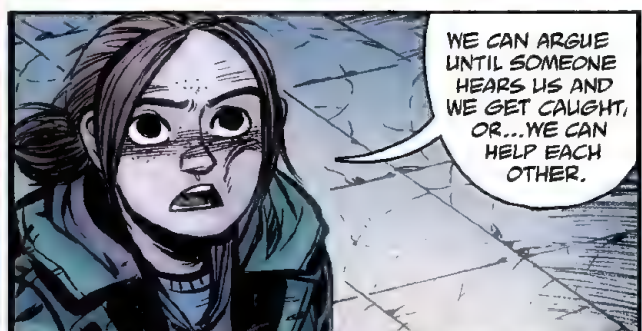
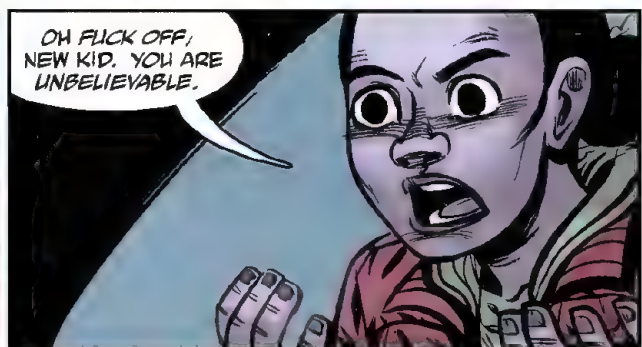
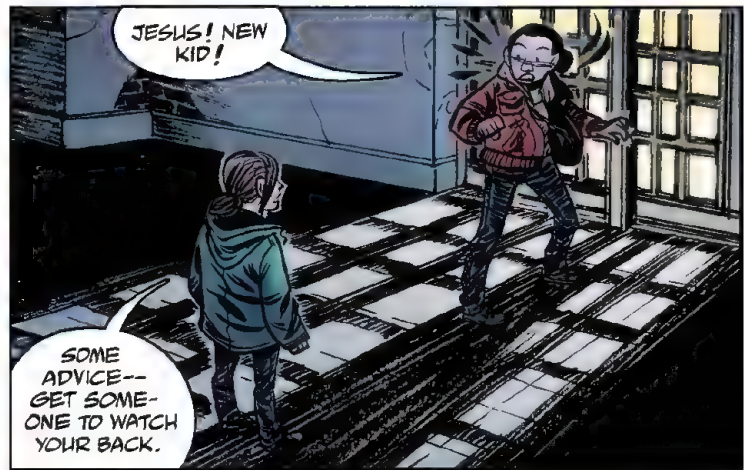
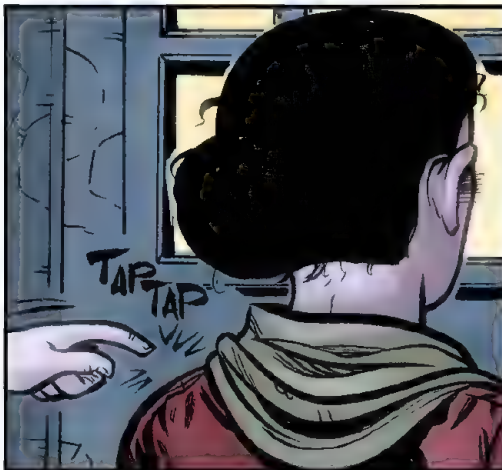


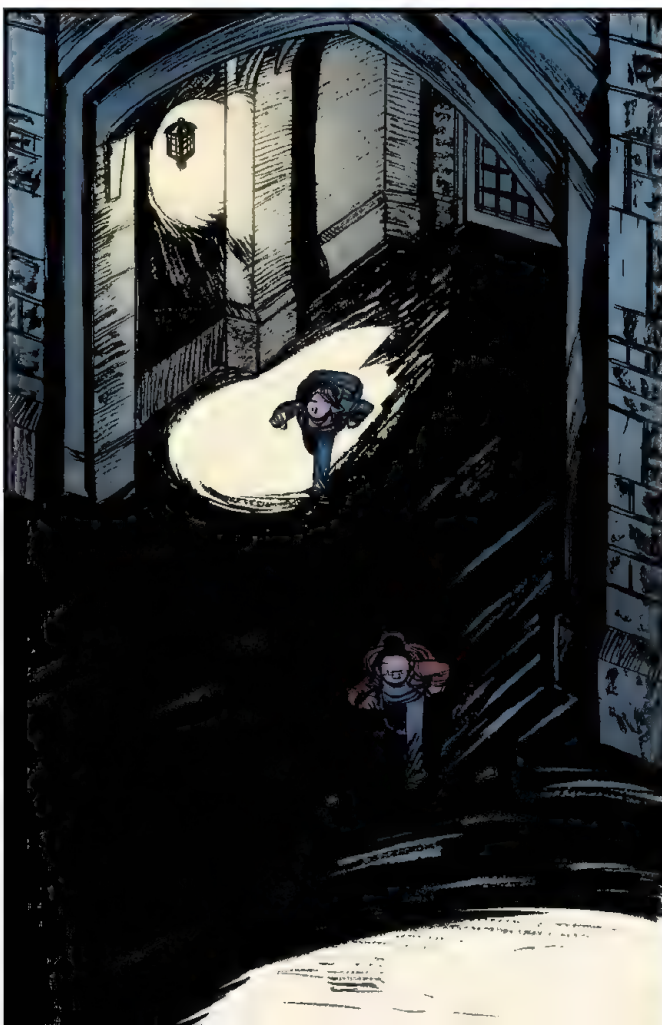
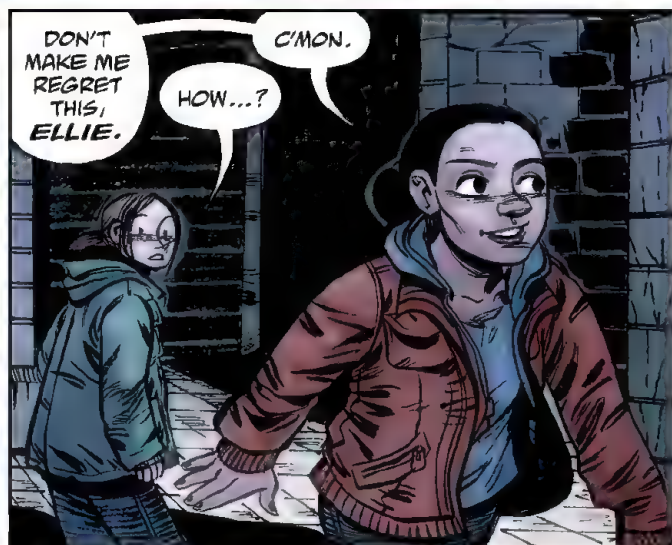












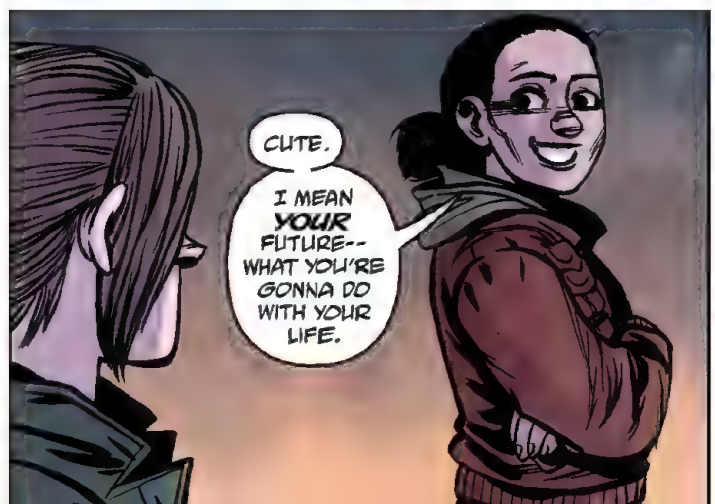
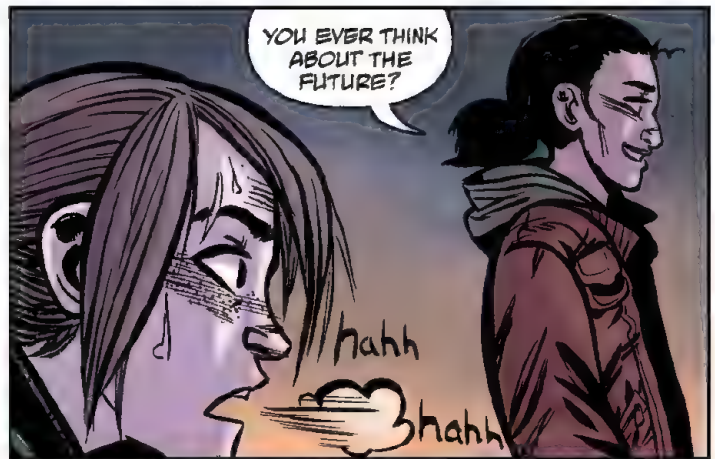
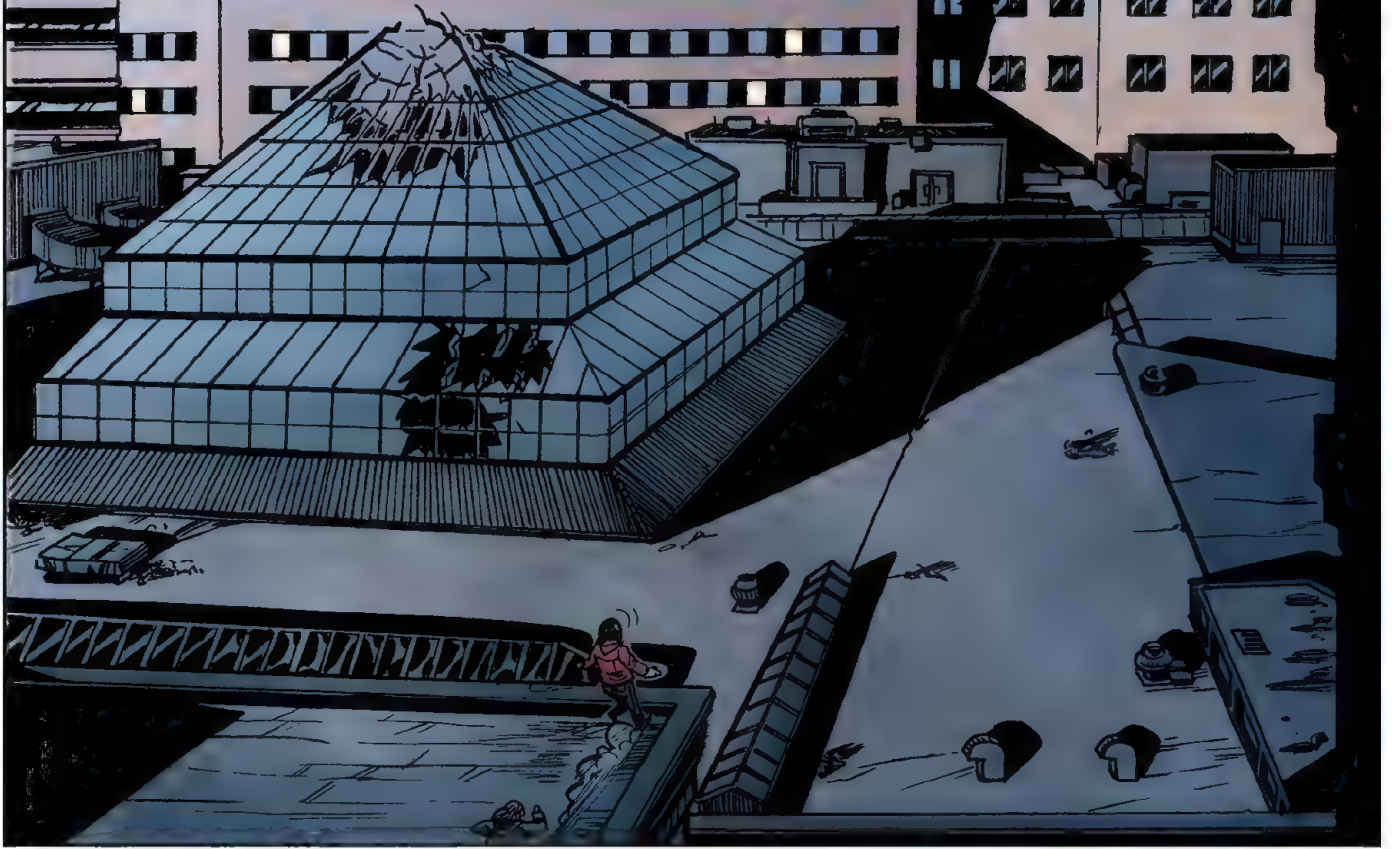


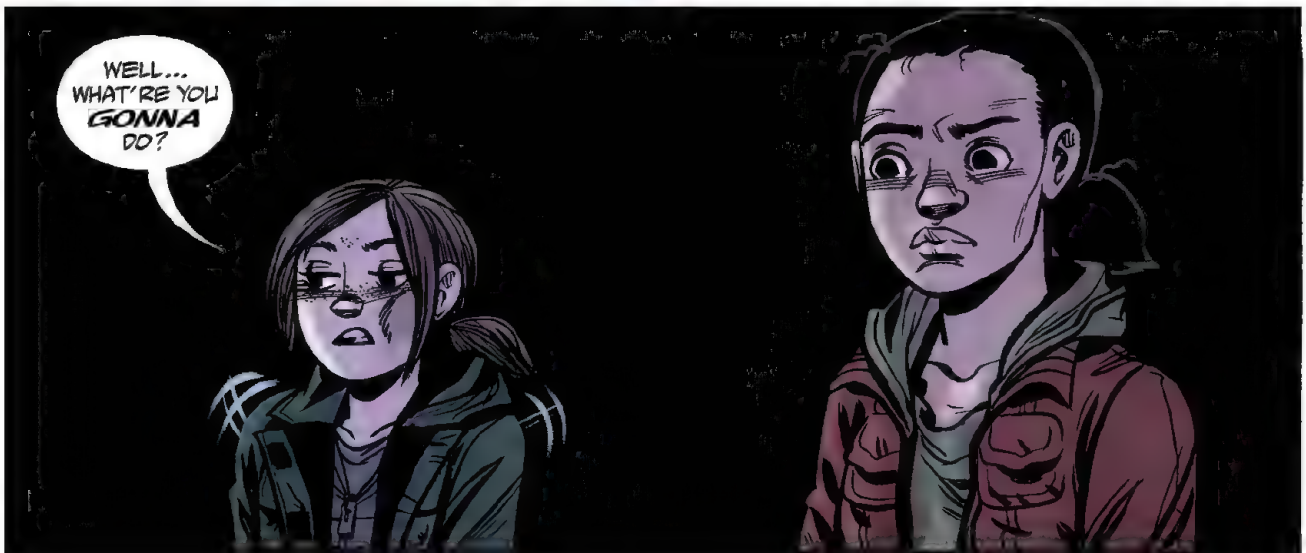
CHAPTER TWO

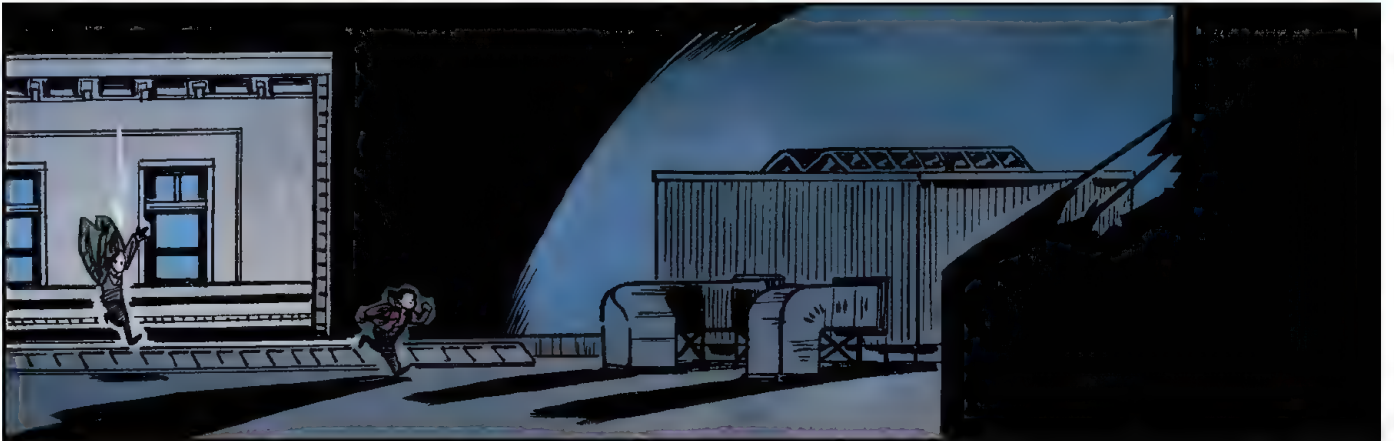
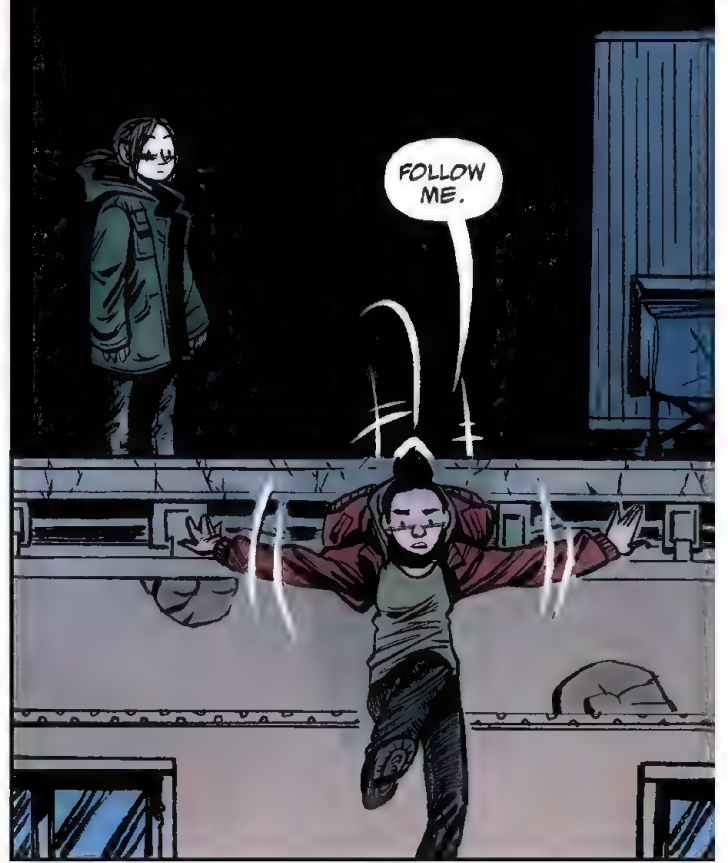


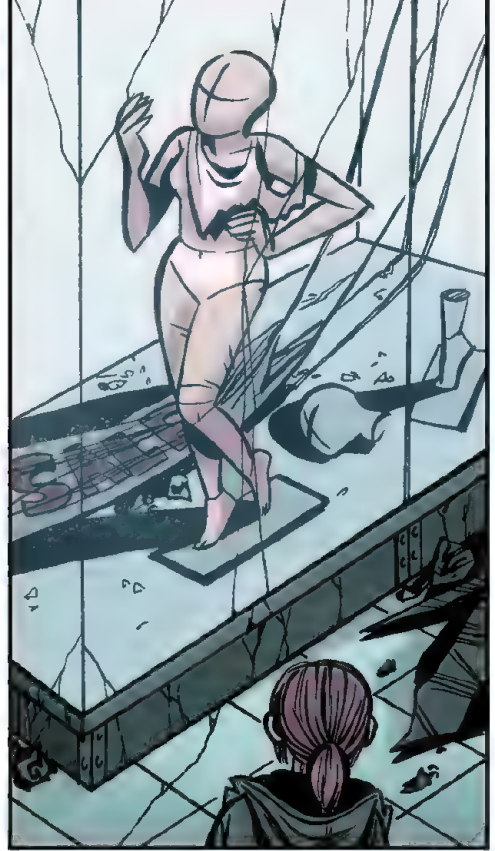


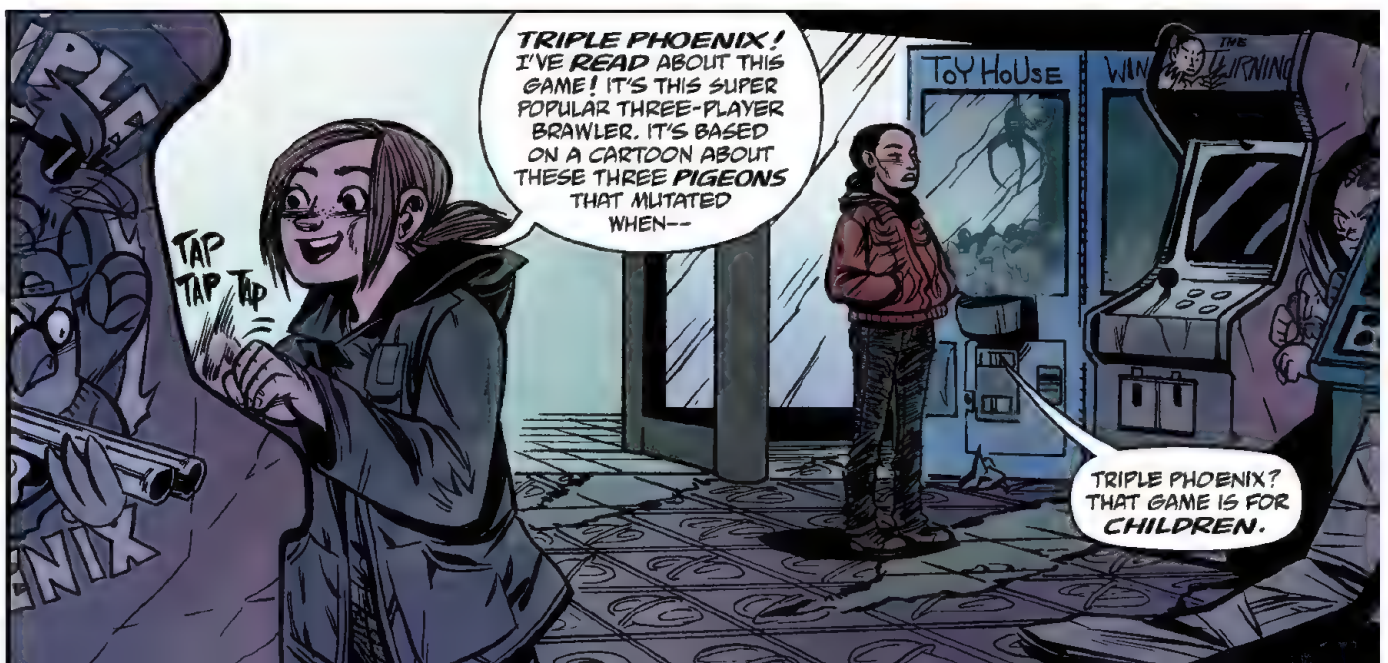
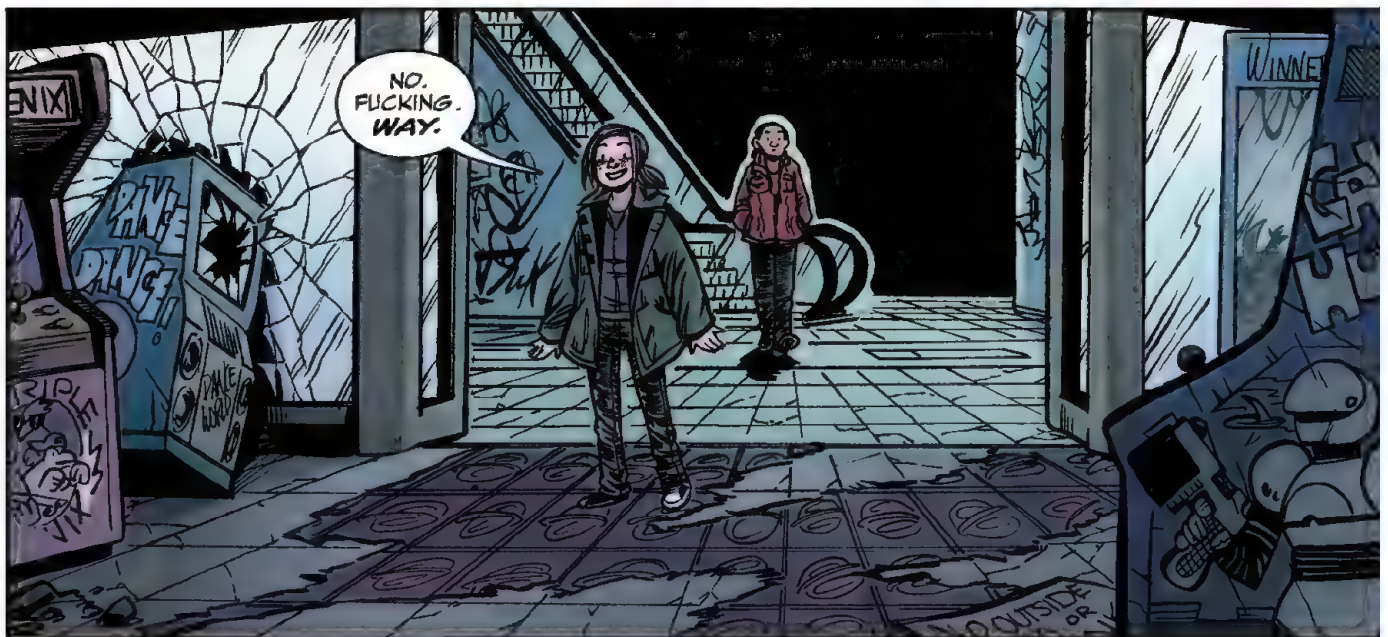


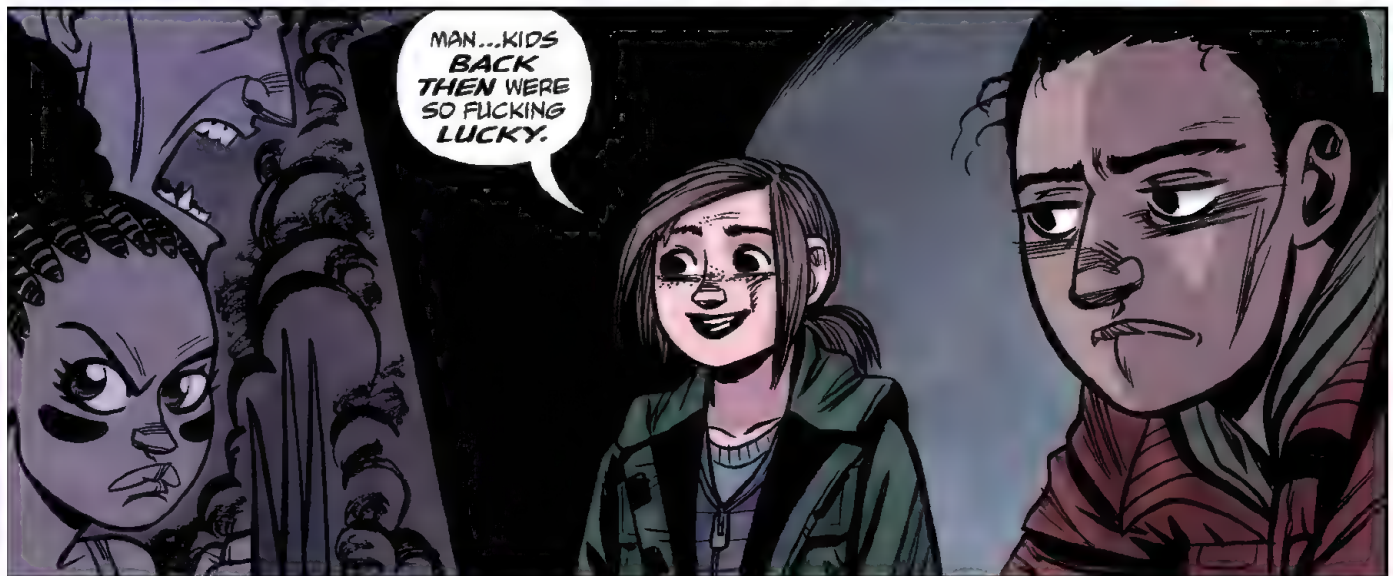
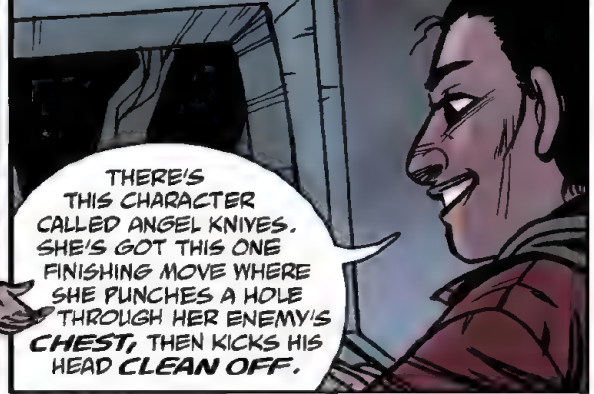


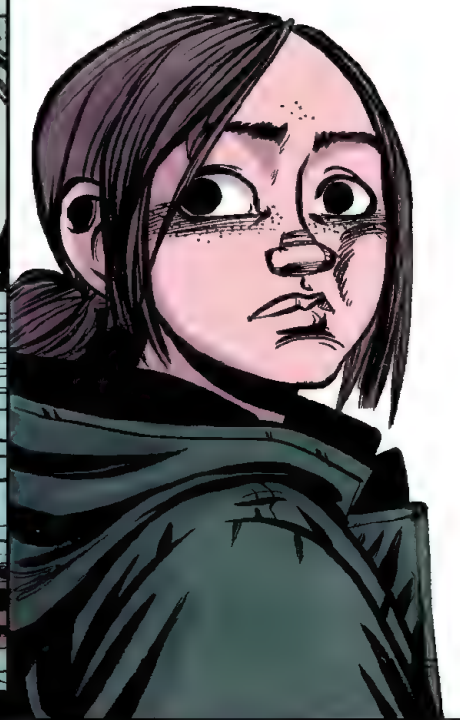


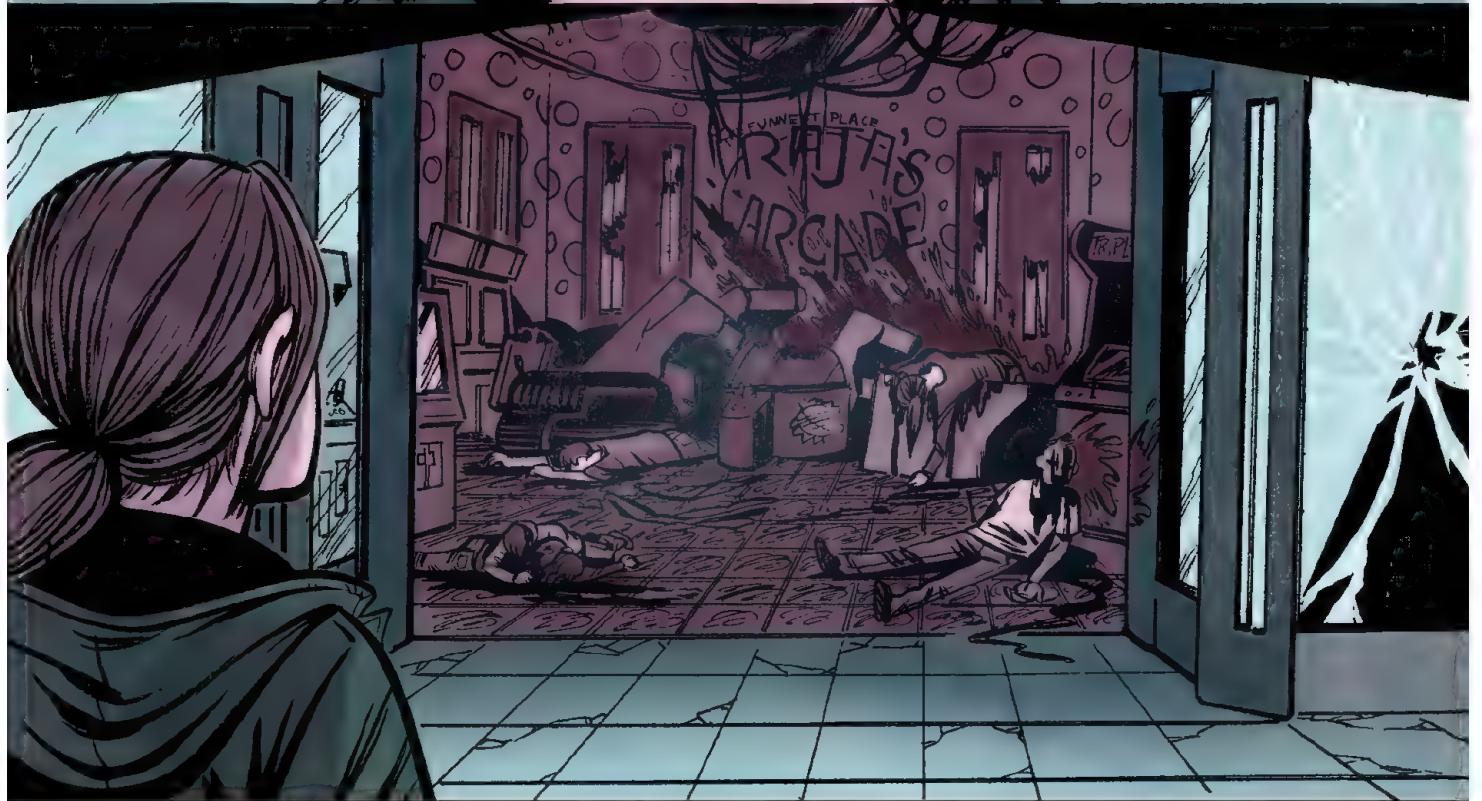
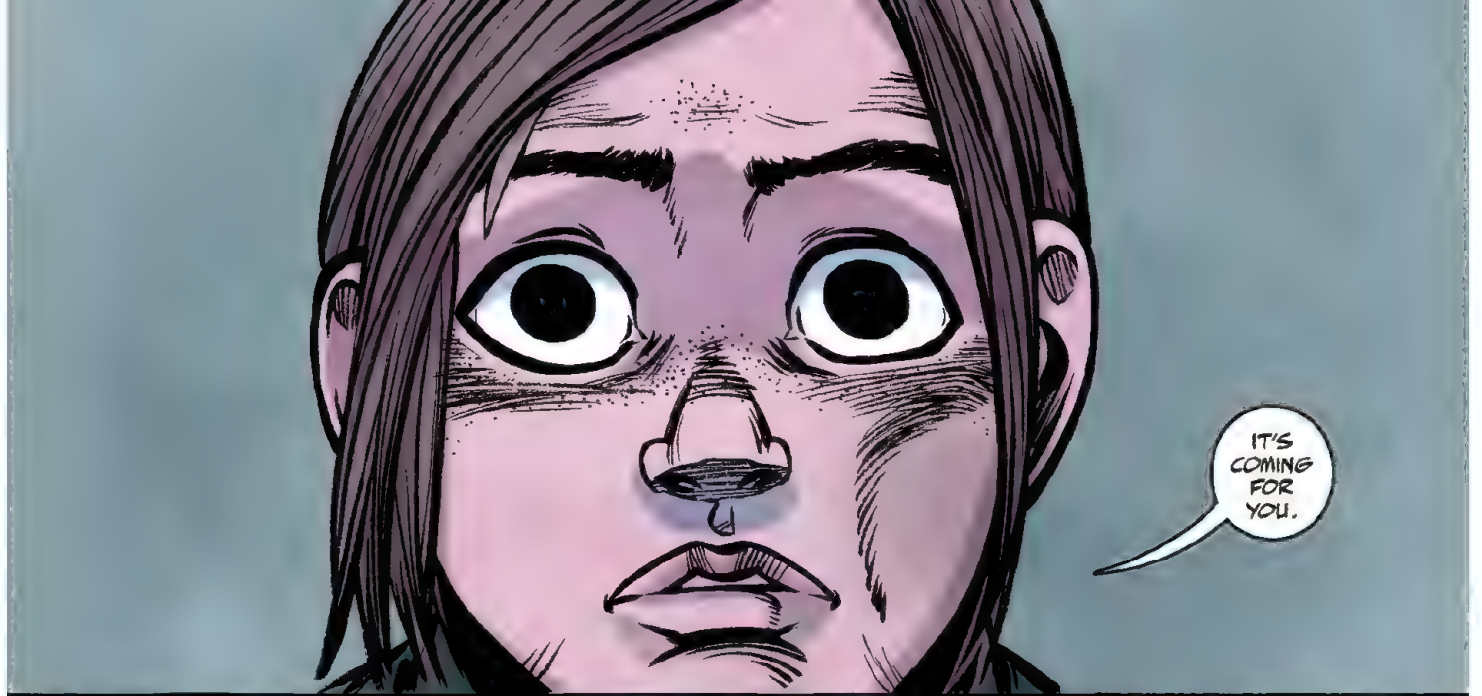


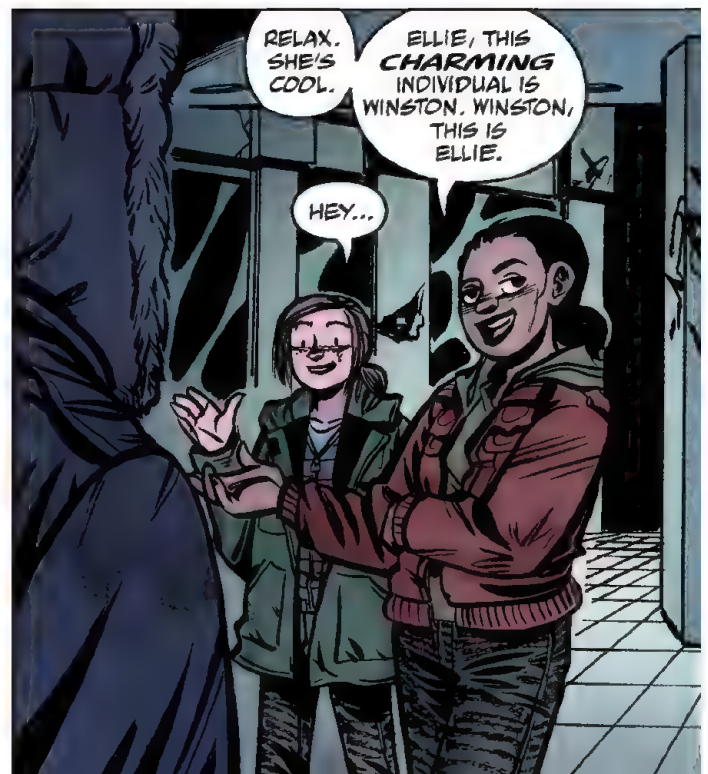
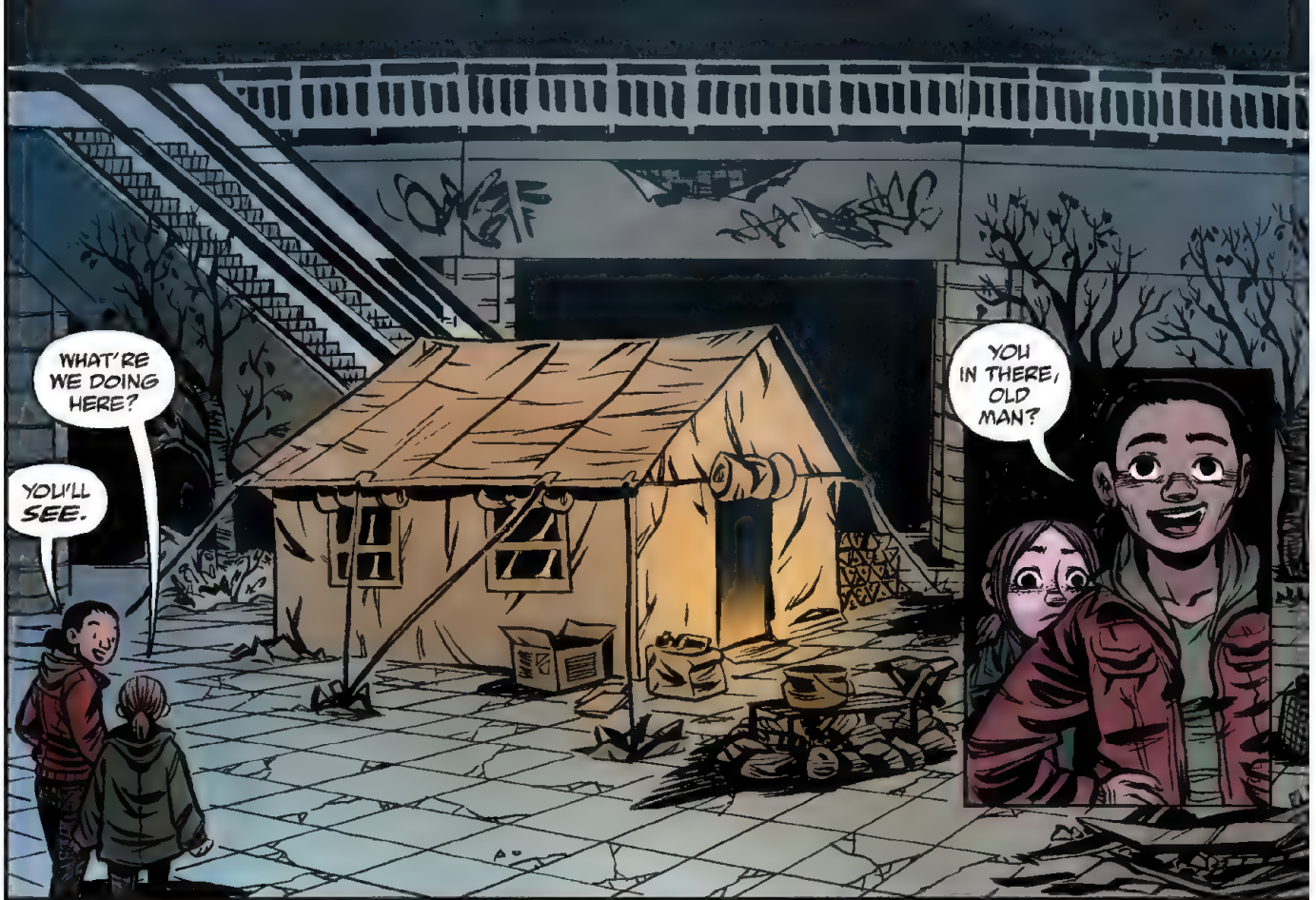




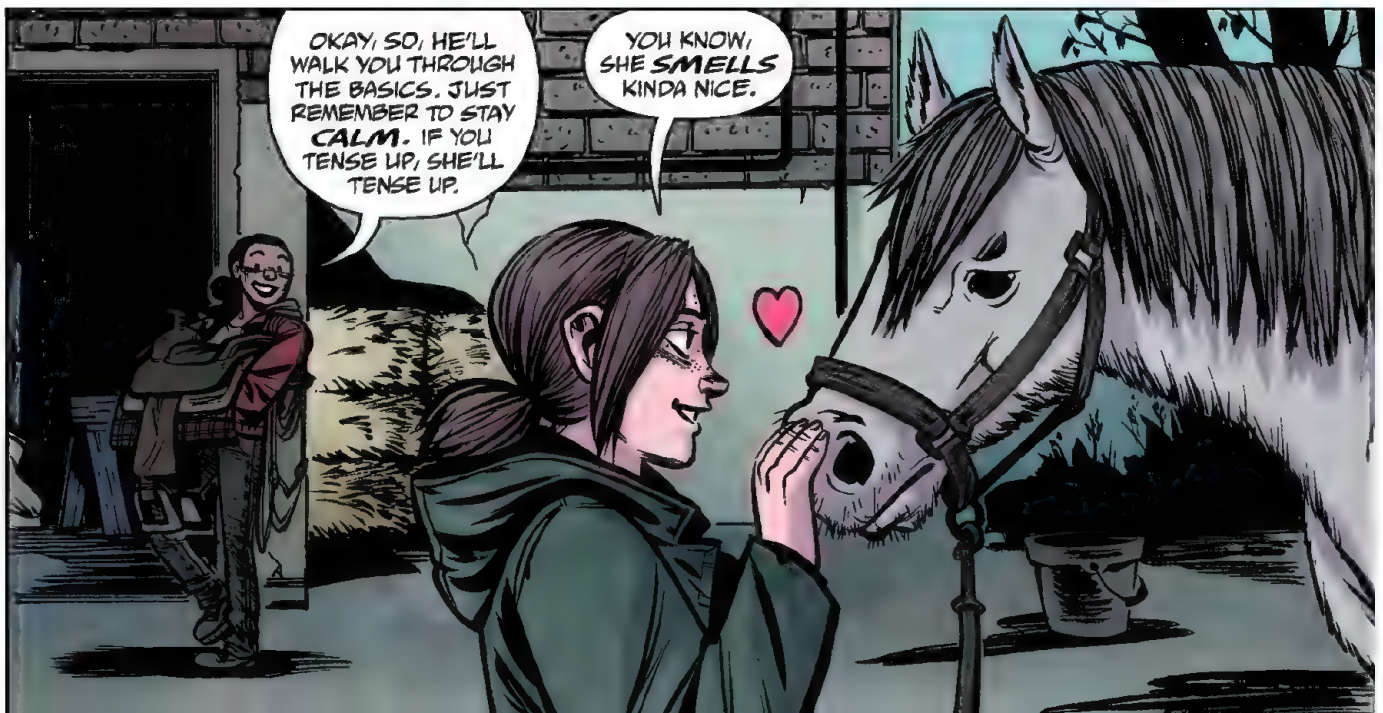
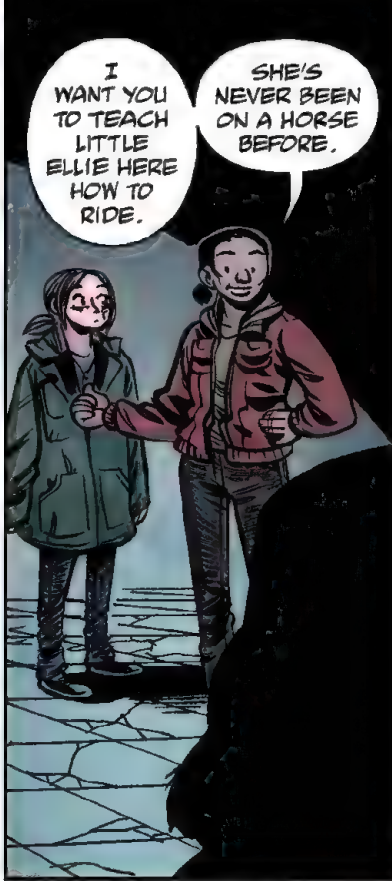


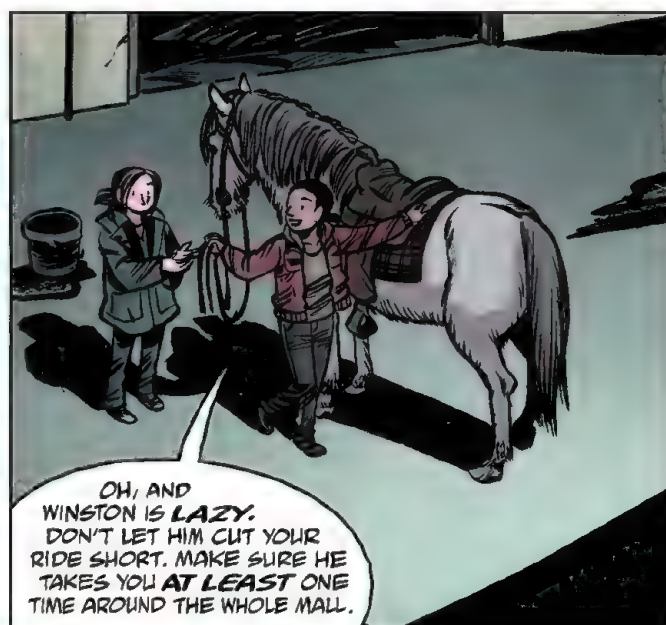




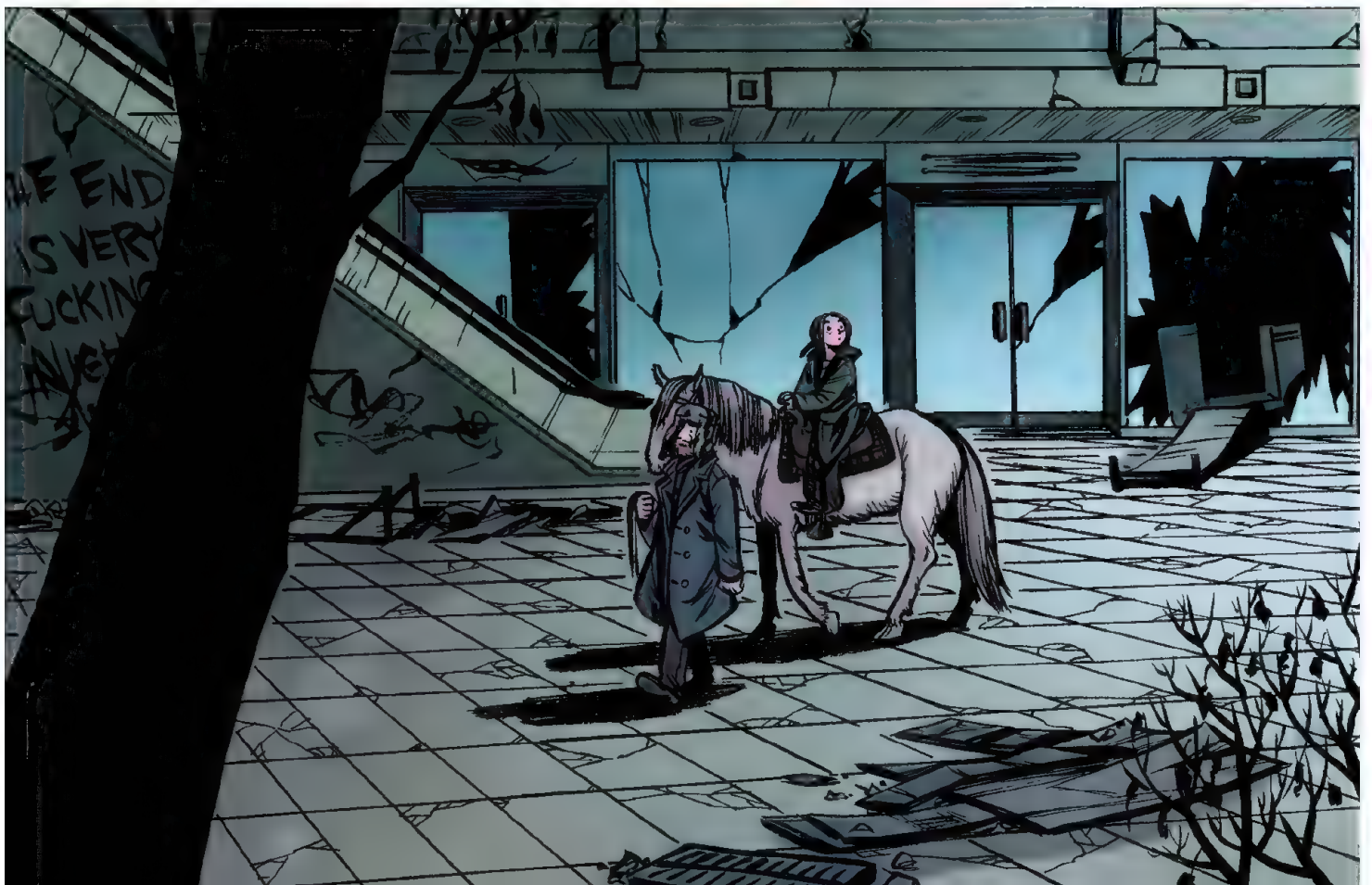
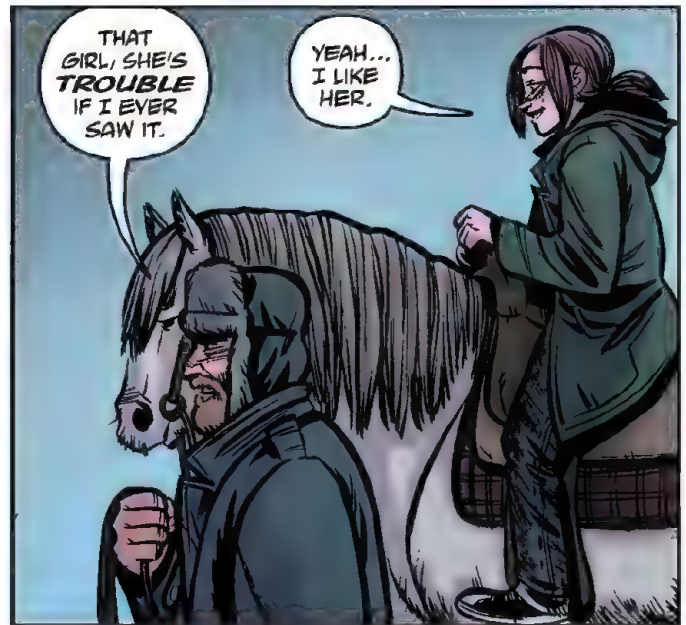
















WHAT WAS THIS PLACE LIKE? BEFORE THE INFECTION.

WELL, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I DID **MY SHARE** OF SKIPPING SCHOOL. I'D MEET WITH MY FRIENDS, GRAB A BURGER, WATCH A MOVIE.

TRY AND FAIL TO MAKE OUT WITH ROBERTA COEN.



RAIN OR SHINE, PLACE WAS ALWAYS PACKED. DURING THE HOLIDAYS IT WAS LIKE BEING IN A CAN OF SARDINES.

I MISS THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS. EVERYONE WAS ALL STRESSED OUT TRYING TO BUY GIFTS, BUT YOU FELT THIS SORT OF...

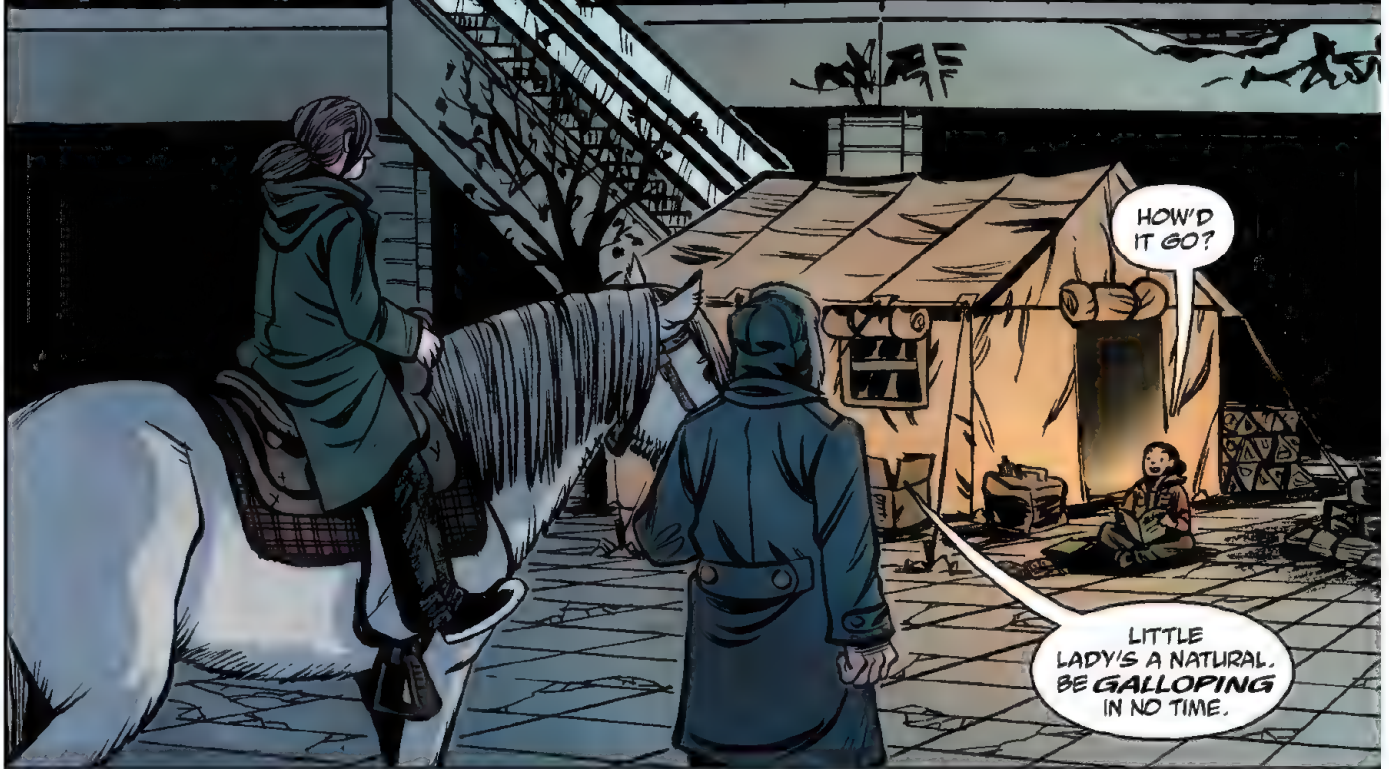


...MAGIC CHEER IN THE AIR.

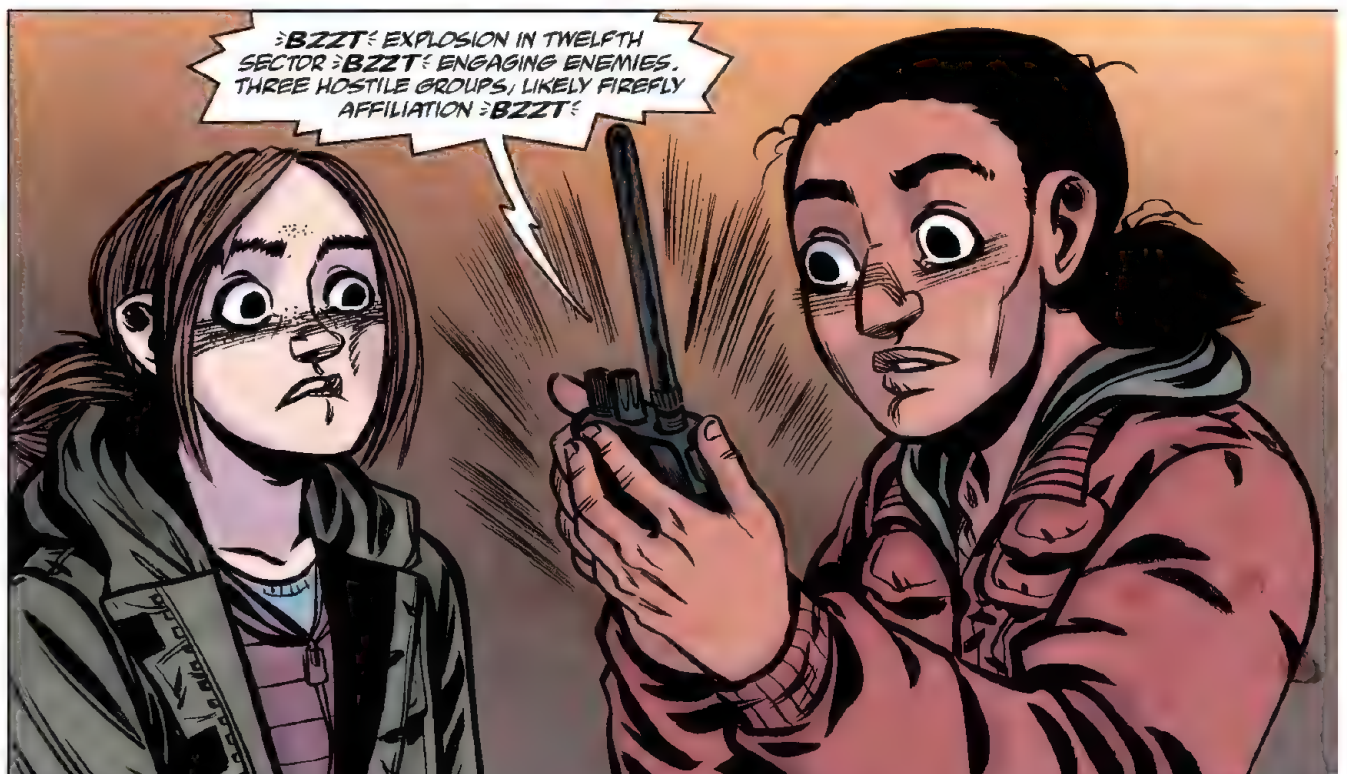


LISTEN TO ME, GETTING ALL **NOSTALGIC** ON YOU.

I DON'T MIND.









CHAPTER THREE





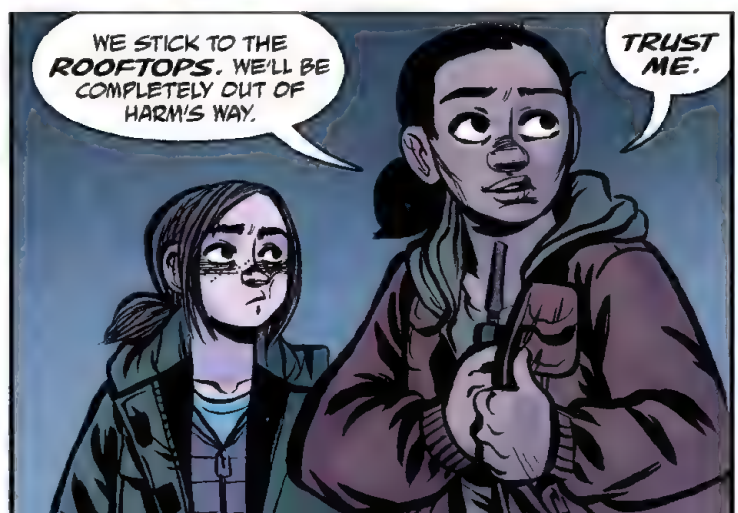
»BZZT« BACKUP
NEEDED IN AREA
FIVE »BZZT«
COME ON, GET
YOUR ASSES DOWN
HERE--WE'VE
GOT THEM ON
THE RUN
»BZZT«



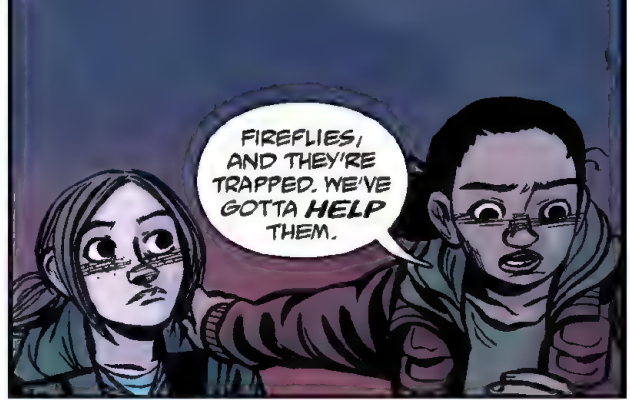
SOOOO...
ANY CHANCE
OF CONVINCING
YOU THAT THIS
IS A REALLY
BAD IDEA?

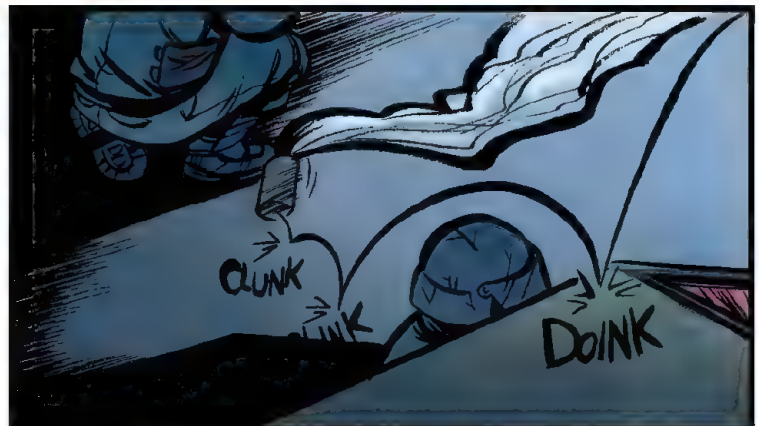


NO
CHANCE
IN HELL.



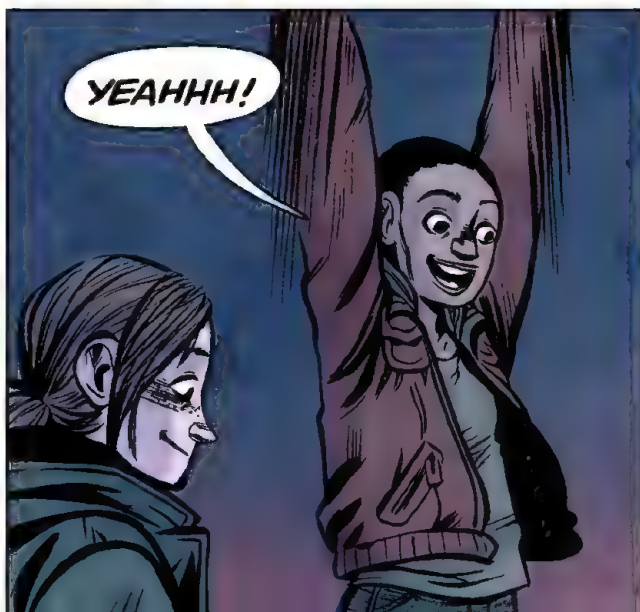








THEY
GOT AWAY! WE
TOTALLY FUCKING
DID IT!



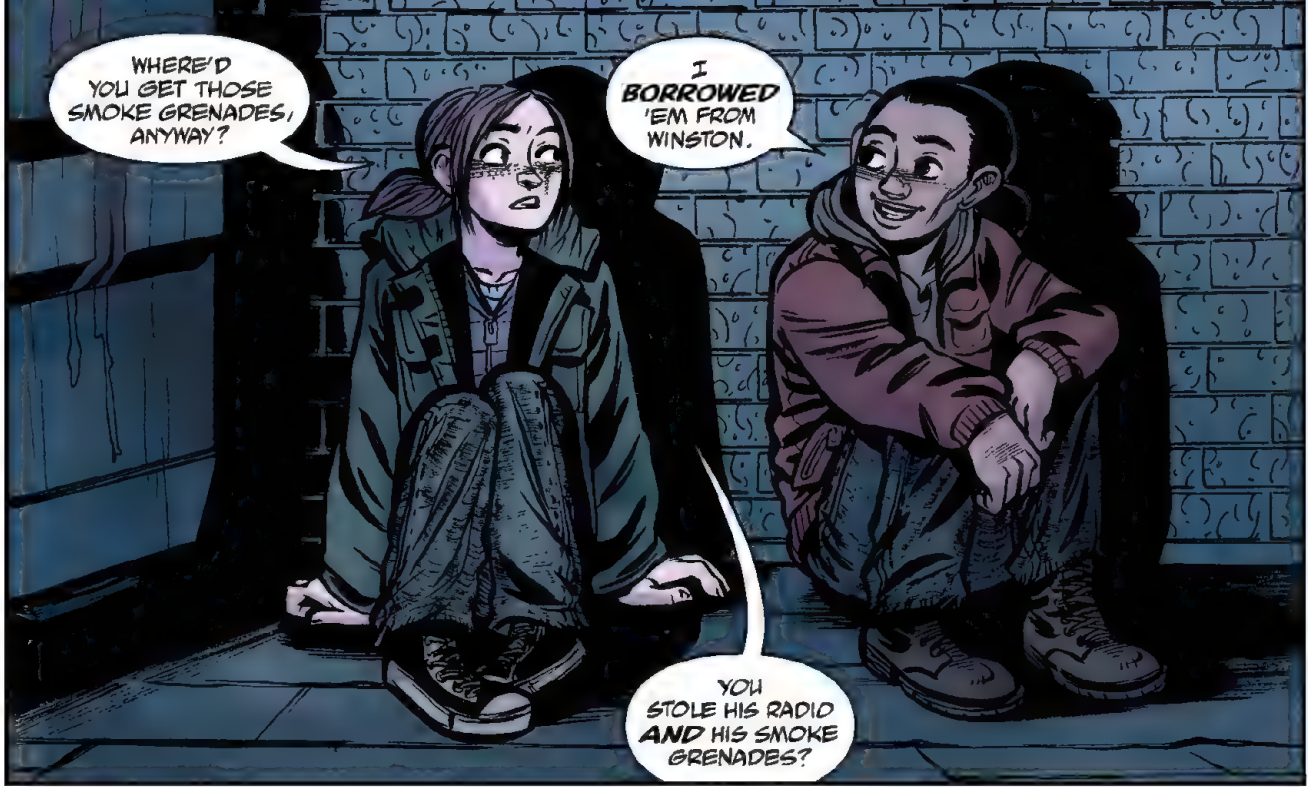
YEAHHH!



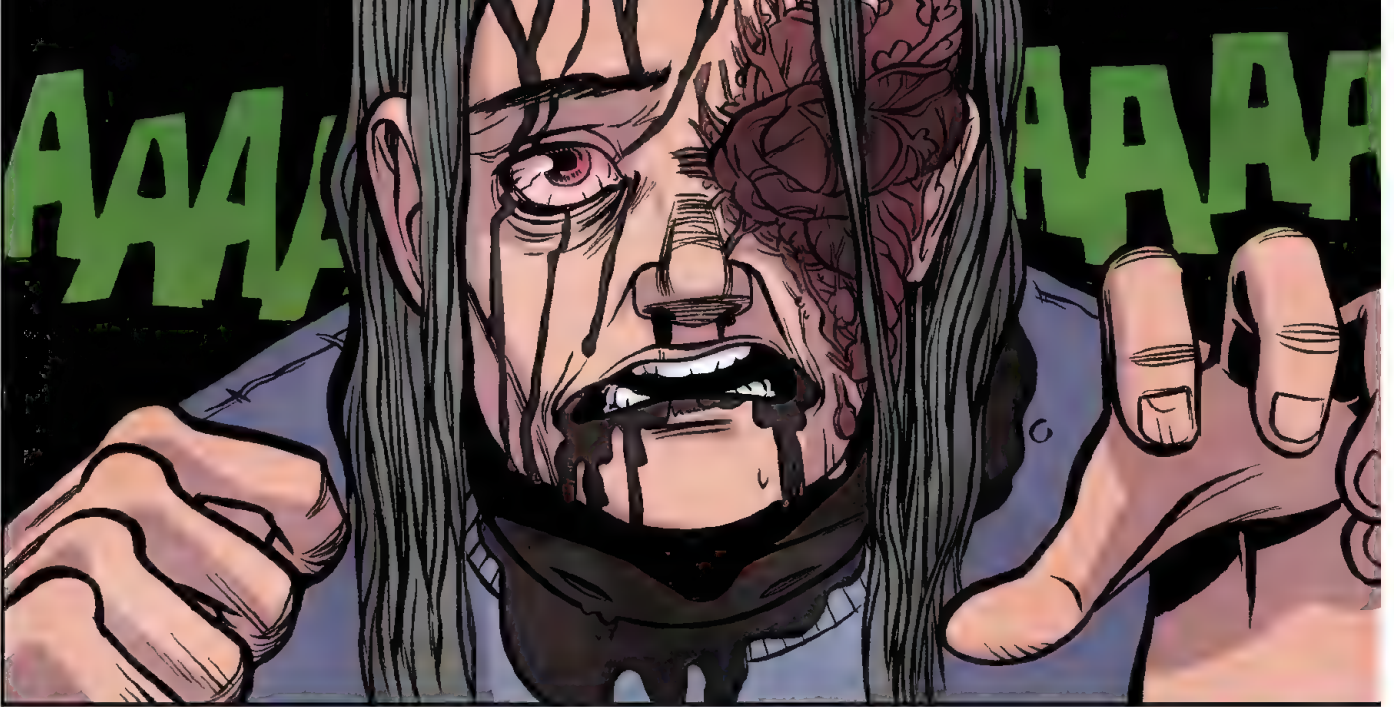


COMPLETELY
OUT OF HARM'S WAY,
HUH?

YOU'RE
ALIVE,
AREN'T
YOU?





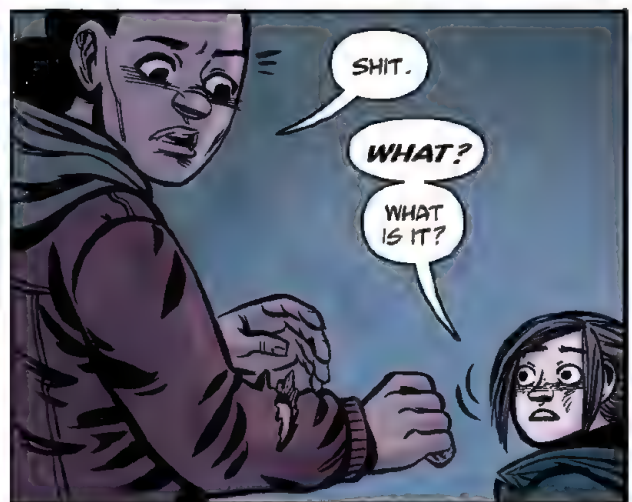














LET ME SEE.

ELLIE, THERE'S NOTHING--



LET ME SEE!



NO BITE.



WHAT'D I TELL YA? I'M GOOD.

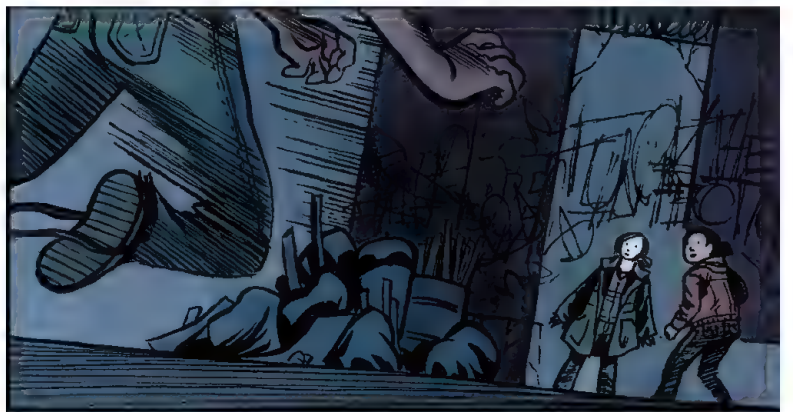
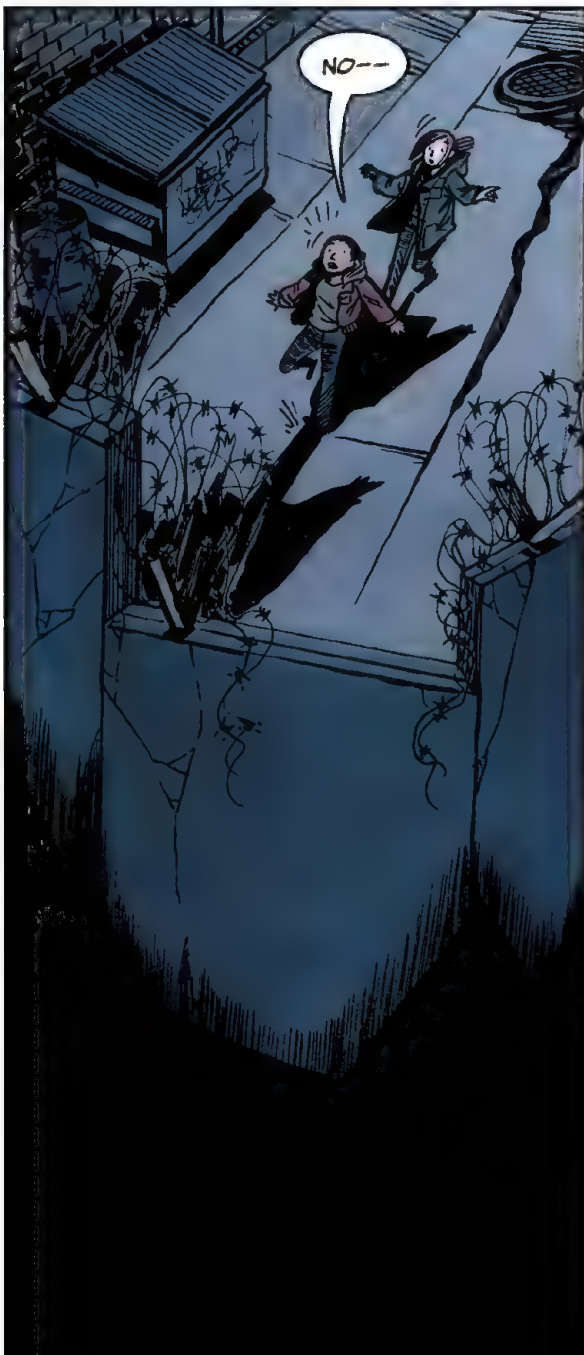
THIS FUCKING THING RUINED MY DAMN JACKET, THOUGH. DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVED THIS--

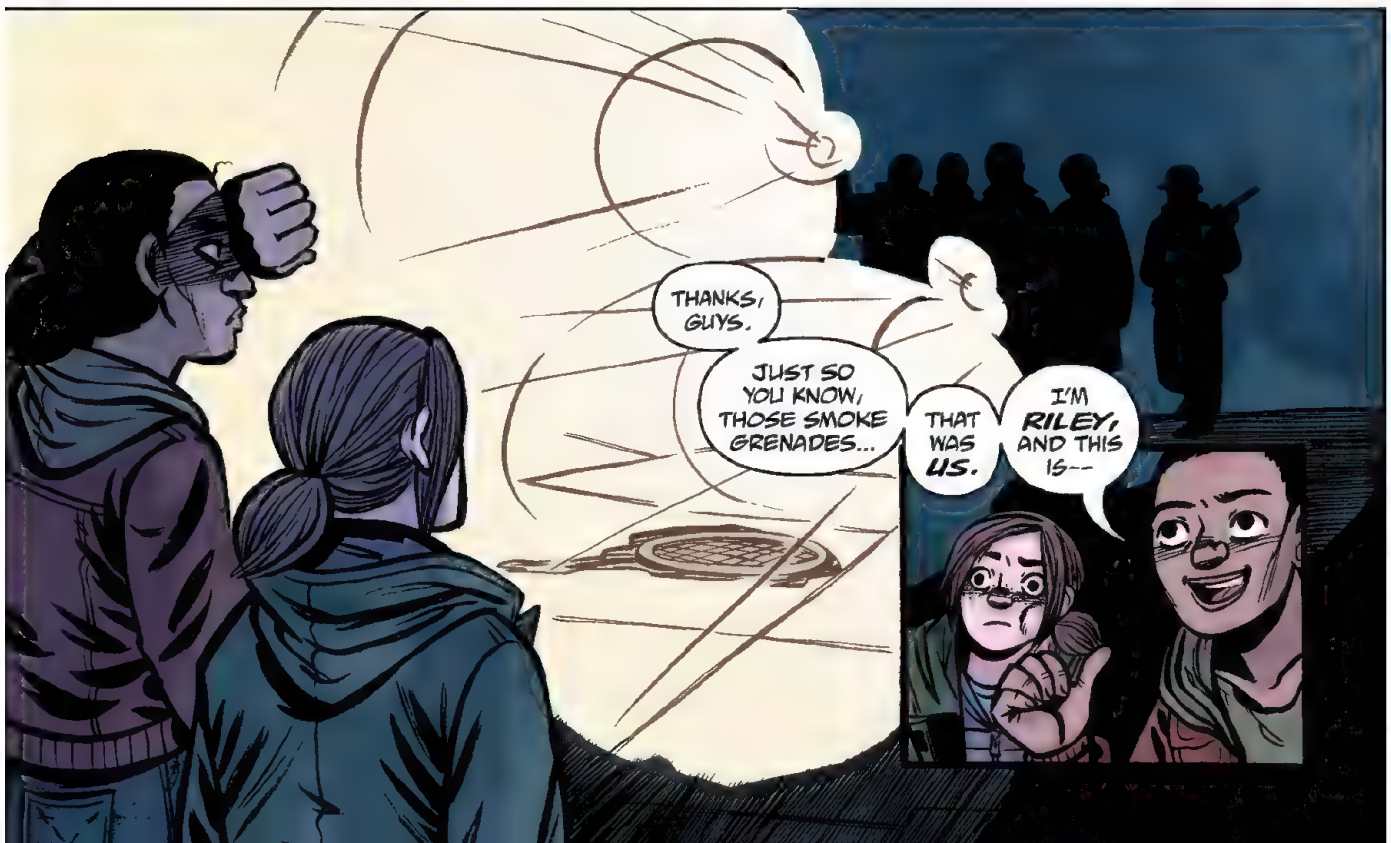
haahh

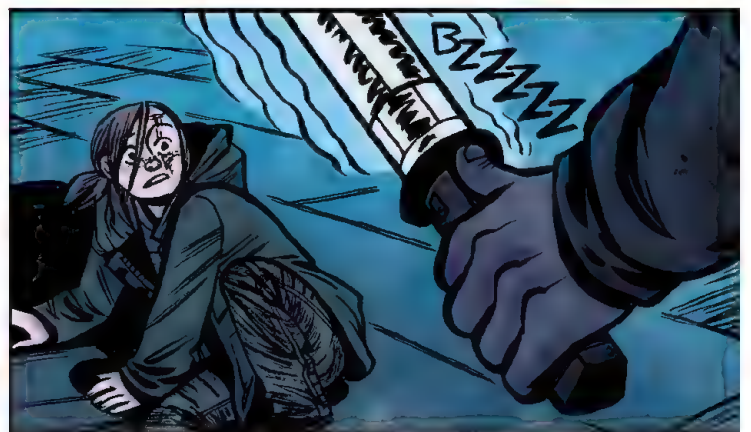


YEAH... I GUESS THAT WAS PRETTY SCARY, HUH?











CHAPTER FOUR

THE FIREFLIES
WILL SAVE
US



THEY CAME
OUT OF NOWHERE.
WE WEREN'T
PREPARED--

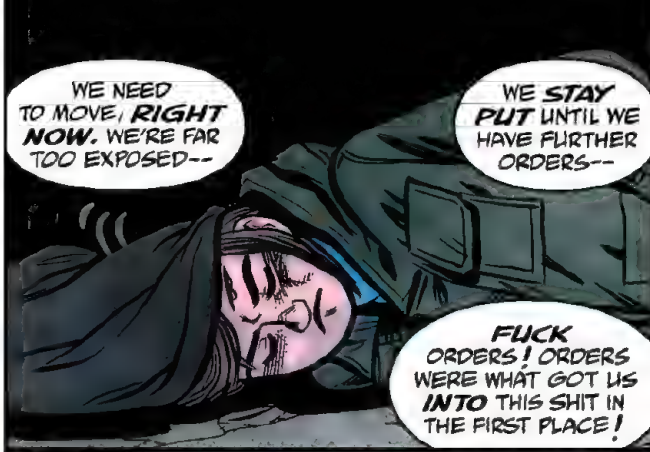
FUCK PREPARED,
OUR FUCKING DATA WAS
BAD! **THAT'S** WHY WE'RE
IN THIS SHIT, NOT BECAUSE
WE WEREN'T FUCKING
PREPARED!

CALM DOWN.
WE NEED TO **RE-**
ORGANIZE--

DON'T
TELL ME
TO **CALM**
DOWN!



WE ALL KNEW
THE **RISKS**, BUT
NO ONE EVER...GOD-
DAMMIT. DO WE KNOW
IF HE'LL **PULL**
THROUGH?



WE NEED
TO MOVE, **RIGHT**
NOW. WE'RE FAR
TOO EXPOSED--

WE **STAY**
PUT UNTIL WE
HAVE FURTHER
ORDERS--

FUCK
ORDERS! ORDERS
WERE WHAT GOT US
INTO THIS SHIT IN
THE FIRST PLACE!



AND
WHERE WERE
YOU? YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO
PROVIDE BACKUP--

I WAS
THERE! I BLEW THAT
STALKER'S FUCKING
HEAD OFF!

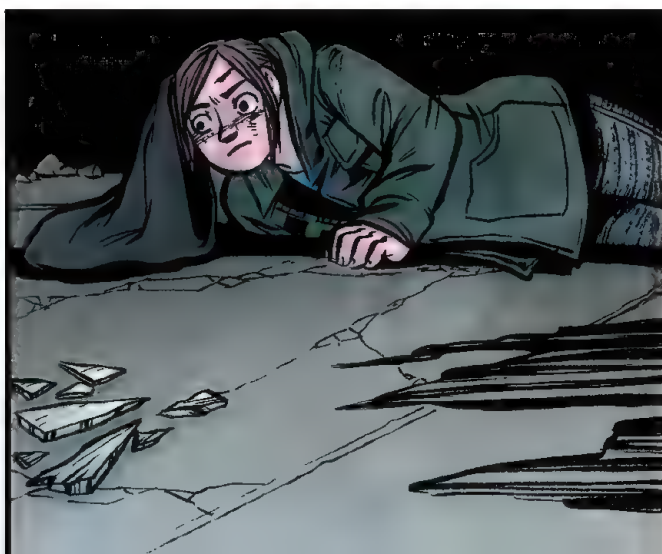


STOP IT. WE
DIDN'T KNOW
THERE'D BE
SO MANY.

DON'T
TELL ME WHAT TO
DO. **JESUS CHRIST!**
I'M TRYING TO KEEP
EVERYTHING UNDER
CONTROL--

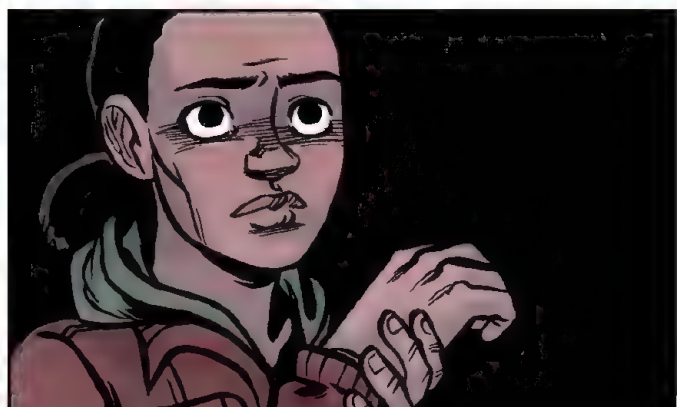


IF YOU'D **LEARN**
HOW TO **SHOOT**
STRAIGHT--



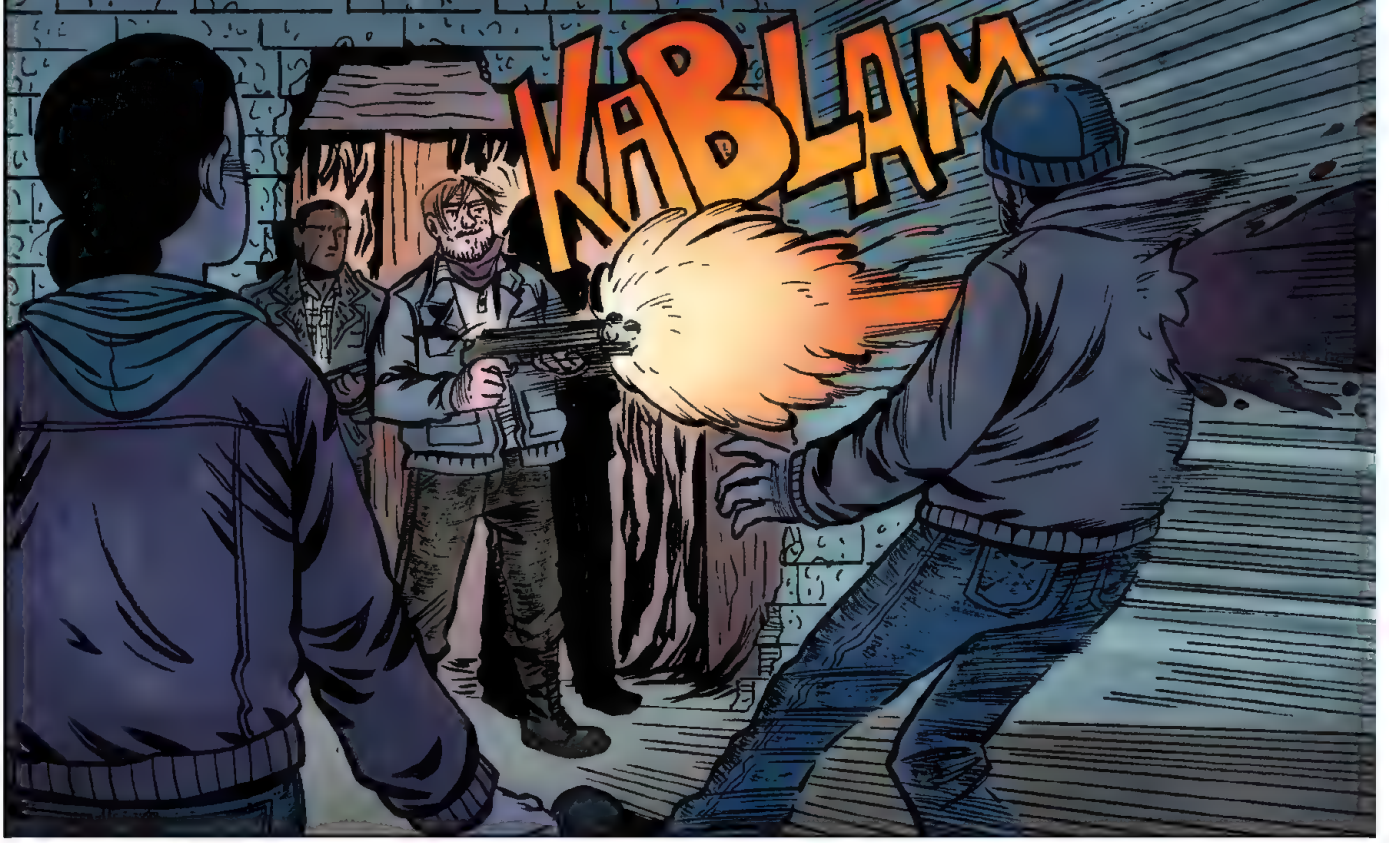
THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR THAT.

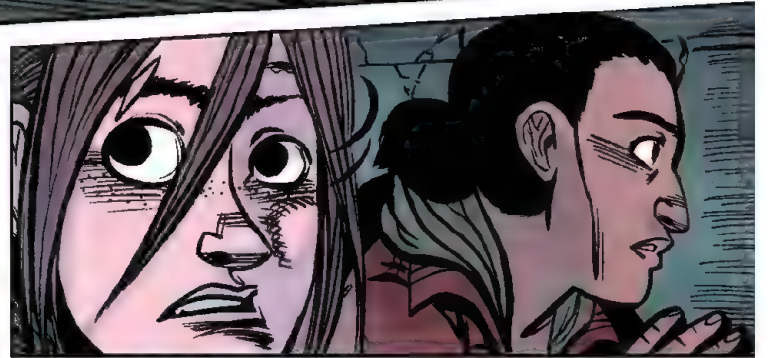
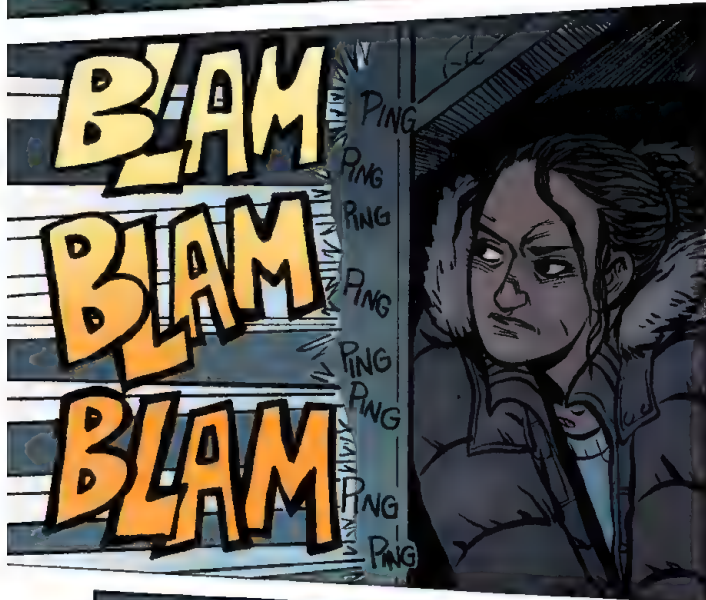


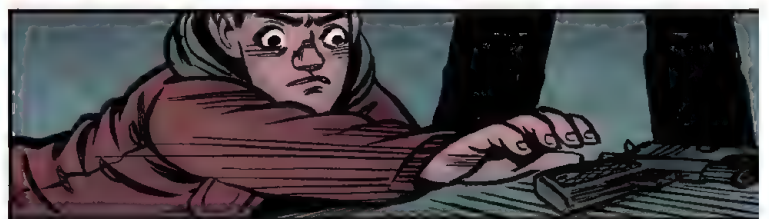




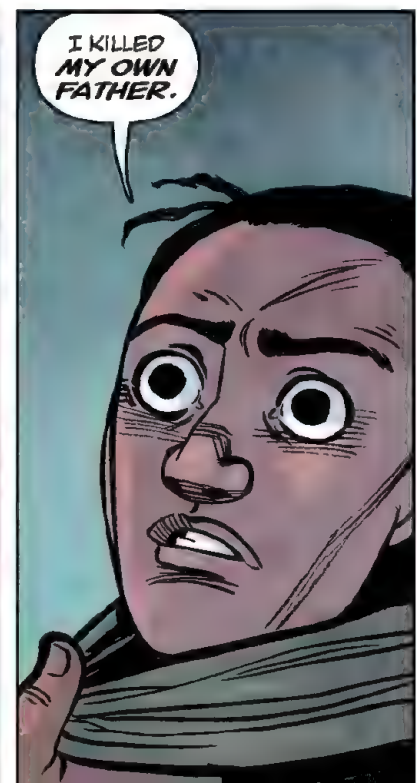


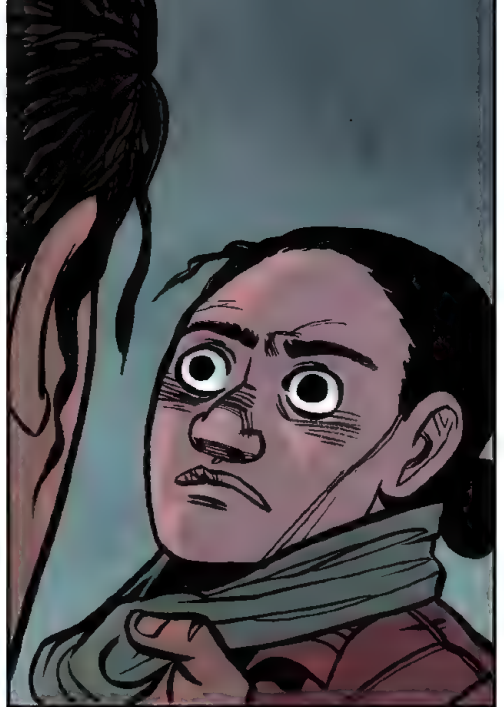


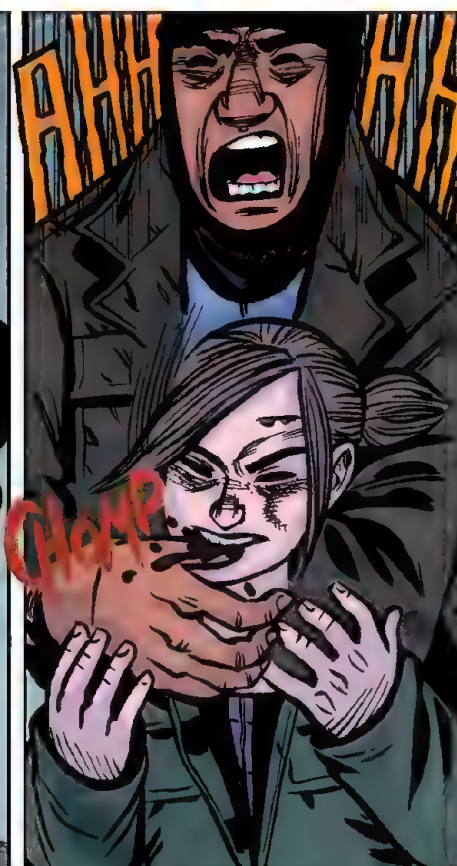
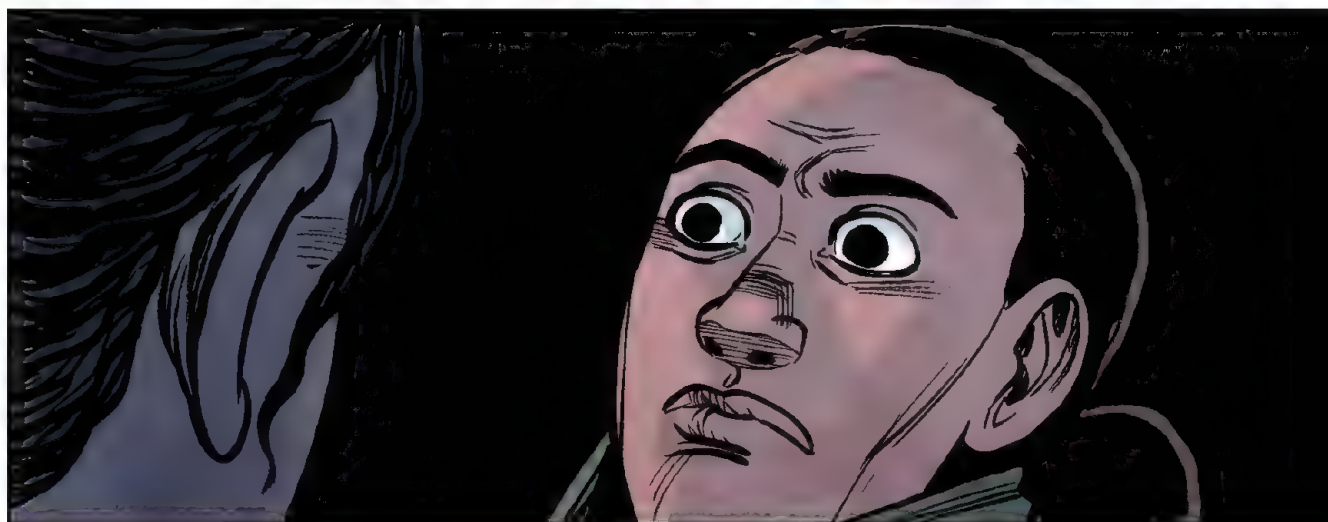




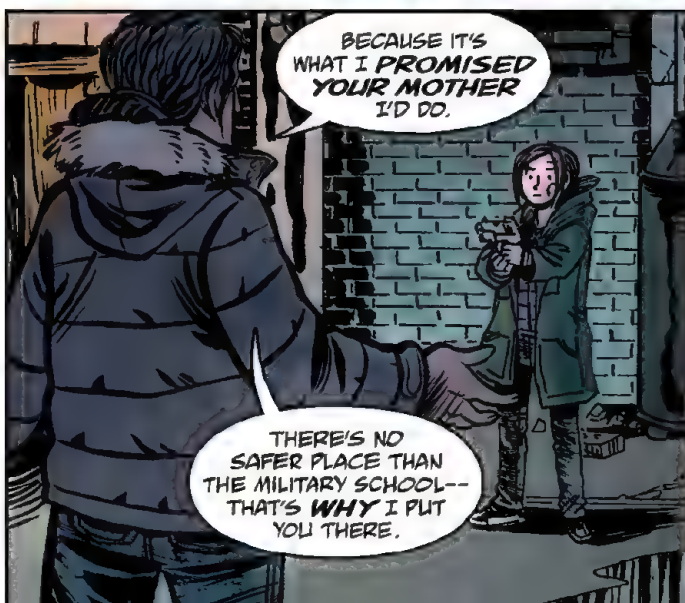
















WHAT WAS HER NAME? MY MOM.

ANNA.



WHEN THE TIME IS **RIGHT**, I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT HER.

JUST KNOW THAT SHE GAVE UP **EVERYTHING** TO SAVE YOU.



DON'T THROW THAT AWAY.

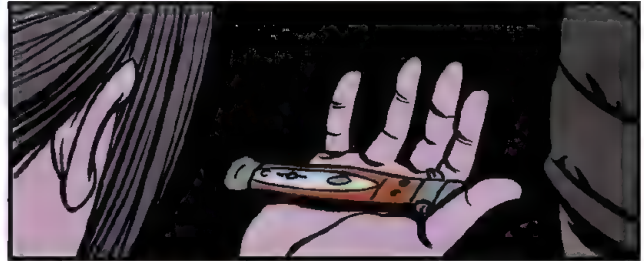


THAT LADDER WILL LEAD YOU TO AN ALLEY RIGHT BEHIND YOUR SCHOOL.

I'M **WATCHING** YOU. DON'T PULL **ANOTHER STUNT** LIKE THIS.

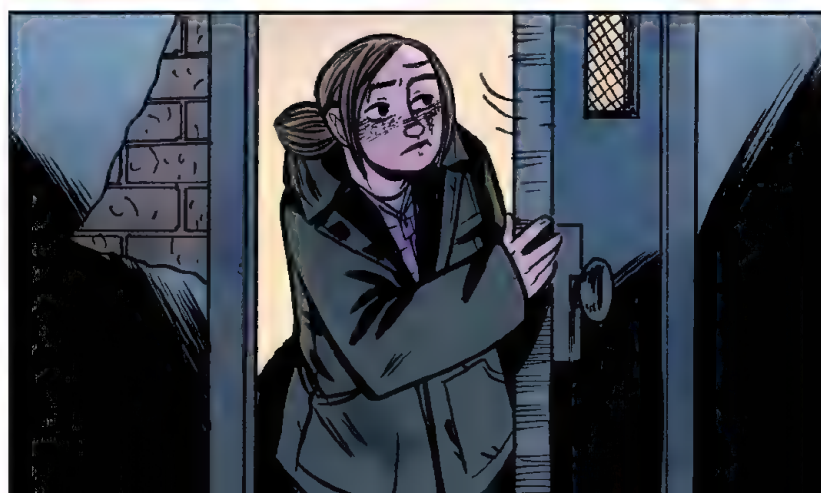
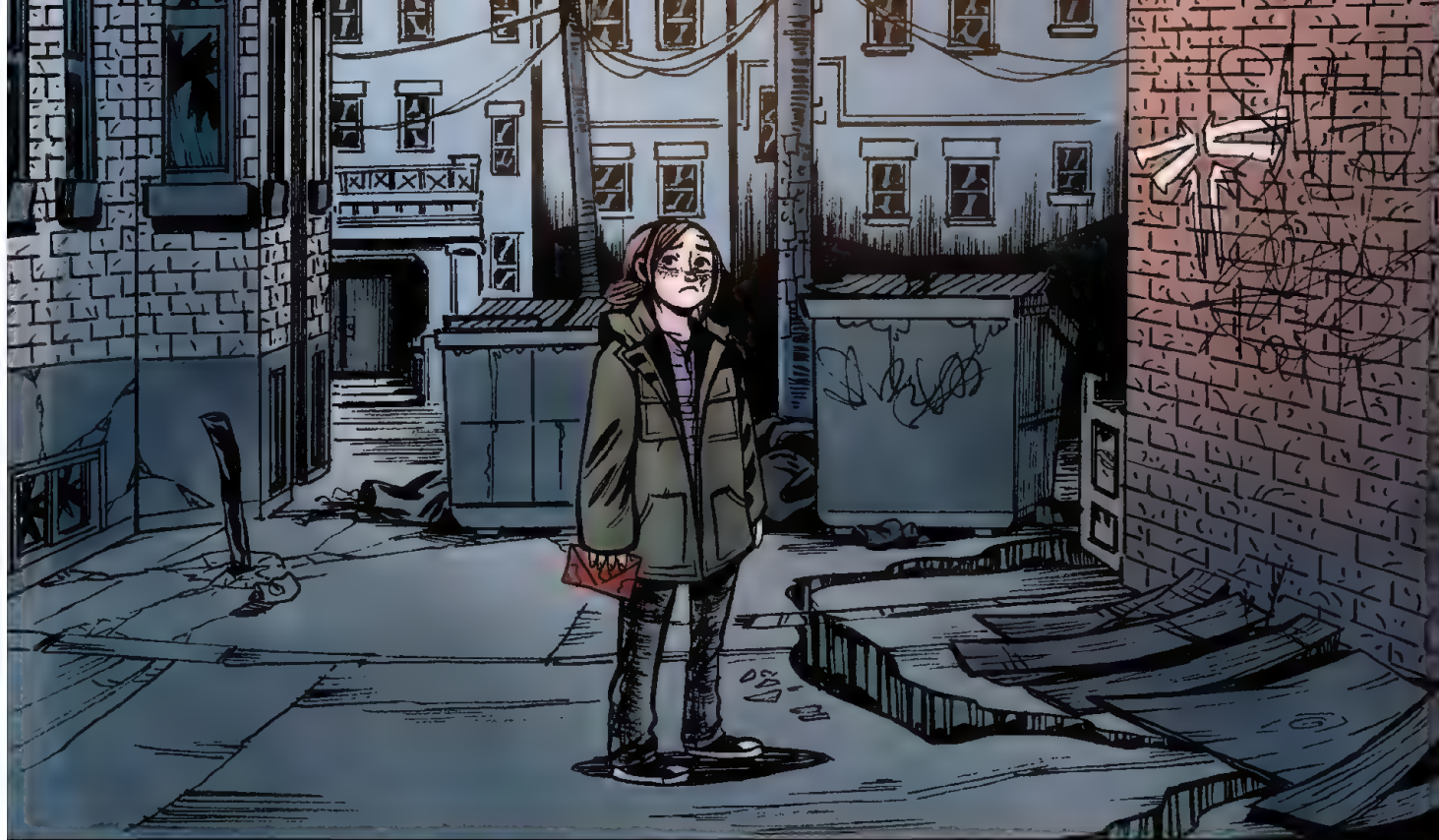


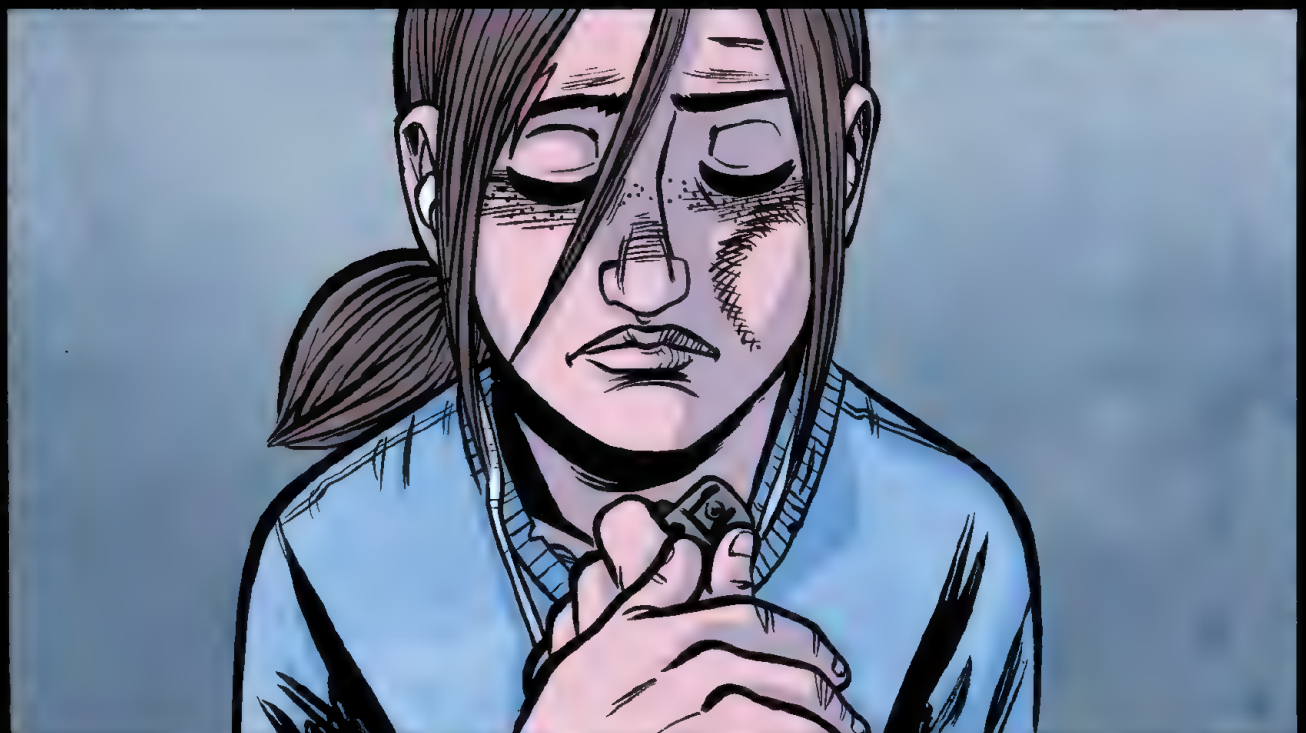
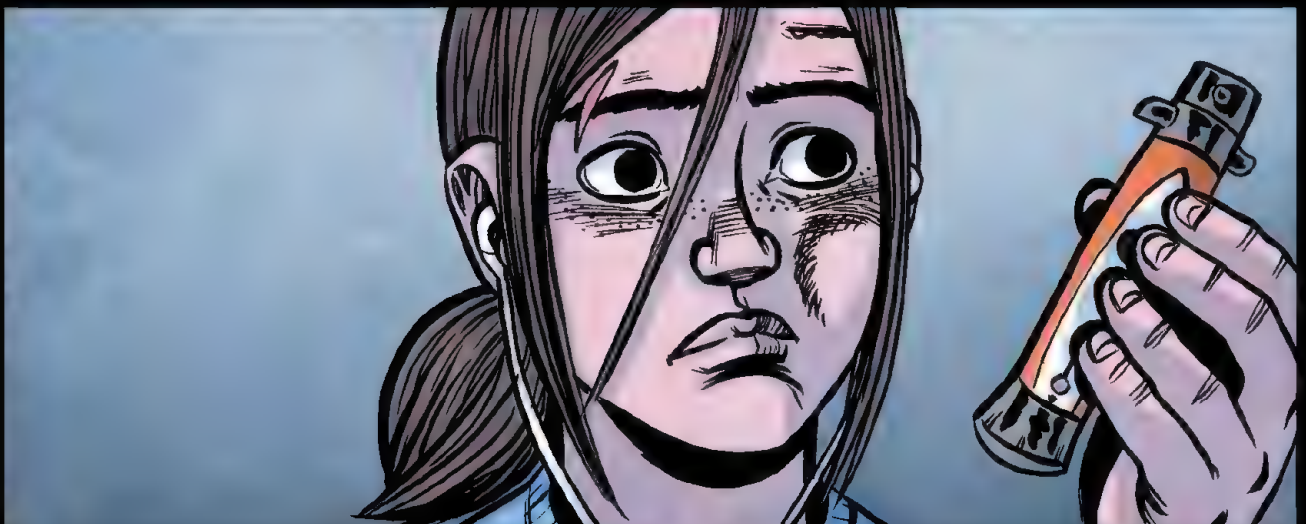
OH. WAIT.











END

PREPARING FOR THE END

CONCEPT SKETCHES AND DESIGNS BY FAITH ERIN HICKS



In translating Ellie and Riley to the page, Faith tried a variety of outfits and attitudes for each.

Right: Faith's Angel Knives design for the arcade cabinet of *The Turning* made its way into *The Last of Us* itself and was used for a T-shirt.

Below: More- and less-casual approaches to Marlene.

Opposite page, top: One of Faith's early concept sketches, made to get a feel for the post-Infection world.

Opposite page, bottom: Faith's initial ideas for the image used to promote *American Dreams* (the final version appears on page 2 of this collection).





THE LAST OF US™

AMERICAN DREAMS

*From the creators of
Uncharted*

"This is definitely one of, if not the, best video game adaptations ever told in comics." —*Comic Bastards*

"One quality that is so often overlooked is the need for a tie-in to exist and thrive on its own merits. This is a quality *The Last of Us: American Dreams* personifies more than any other video game tie-in I've read."

—IGN

"Faith Erin Hicks's art style is so perfect for this story. It's a children's cartoon with a gritty edge, a wonderfully apt way of depicting the hopeful mind of a young teenager as dark reality encroaches."

—Kotaku

NINETEEN YEARS AGO, a parasitic fungal outbreak killed the majority of the world's population. In one of the few remaining quarantine zones, thirteen-year-old Ellie begins her new life as a ward of a military boarding school, where a friendship with fellow student Riley leads to her first trip into the outside world. Beyond the walls of the regimented civil order they know, Ellie and Riley are soon confronted with the violent way of life of the insurgent group the Fireflies—and with the monstrous victims of infection!

Cowritten by the game's creative director Neil Druckmann and rising comics star Faith Erin Hicks, *American Dreams* is an action-packed coming-of-age tale and an essential story set in the world of the blockbuster new game *The Last of Us*!



DarkHorse.com
TheLastOfUs.com



NAUGHTY DOG